

In Memoriam.


HON. JOHN M. MOREHEAD.

RALEIGH:

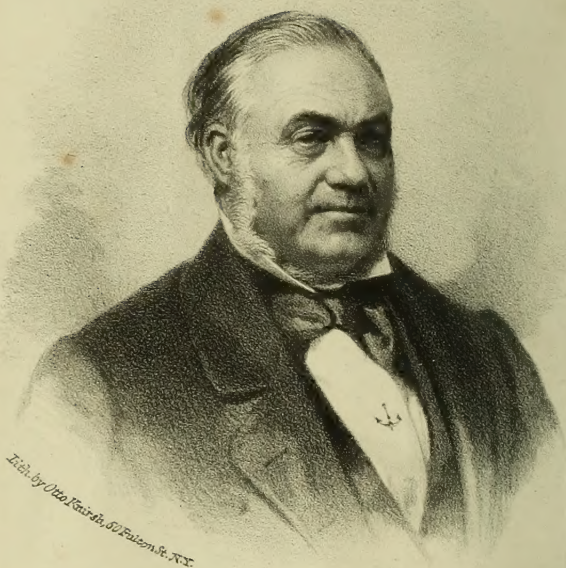
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Yours Truly  
J. M. Morehead



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In Memoriam.

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# IN MEMORIAM.

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From the Greensboro' (N. C.) Patriot, September, 1863.

## DEATH OF GOV. MOREHEAD—TOWN MEETING.

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ON receipt of the intelligence of the death of Gov. MOREHEAD, a meeting of citizens was called by Mayor Eckel, in the Court-House, on the evening of the 29th, at which Ralph Gorrell, Lyndon Swaim and John Long were appointed a committee to draft resolutions suitable to the occasion; and a committee of fifteen, to-wit: Richard Sterling, W. A. Caldwell, D. F. Caldwell, James Jones, M. D. Smith, A. G. Brenizer, J. W. Albright, W. D. Trotter, J. Hildesheimer, Dr. J. Q. Beasley, Peter Adams, J. R. May, R. M. Sloan, David Scott, and Dr. A. C. Caldwell, to wait at the railroad station, at 3 o'clock in the morning, receive the remains, and attend them to the family residence.

On the morning of the 30th, at 9 o'clock, the meeting re-assembled, and, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Gorrell, chairman of the committee appointed to draft resolution, Mr. Swaim offered the resolutions below, prefaced by remarks, as follows:

In consideration of the eminent position occupied by our deceased fellow-townsmen—his age and public services—we owe fitting public demonstration of respect to his remains and to his memory. His force of character, and talents as a popular orator, would have made him a "man of mark" in any age or country. These characteristics, we know, were largely directed, throughout his life, to patriotic purposes, and entitled him to the public gratitude. His life



illustrated the history of our State for many years, particularly in the public improvements thereof, which have added so much to the substantial advancement and prosperity of the people. More, perhaps, than that of any other man, has his wonderful energy for many years pervaded and extended the iron fibres of our system of State improvements.

For the last forty years he has been more or less in public life—most of the time where the interests of the whole State occupied his mind. For forty years and more his hours of social leisure have been passed among the citizens of this town and county. Most of his town cotemporaries of forty years ago have passed away. Now *his* time has come. His genial smile, and mellow laugh, and sparkling humor will cheer the circle of his neighbors no more. And how painful the void in his household, where his cheerful and kindly spirit was like continual sun-shine!

But we do not assemble now to listen to an eulogy upon his life—to draw lessons from his frailties or to laud his virtues. We come to bury him: to perform the last sad office of neighbors and friends and fellow-citizens to the mortal remains of JOHN M. MOREHEAD; to commit his spirit to our common Lord and Father, Him

“Who sees with equal eye, as Lord of all,  
The hero perish and the sparrow fall;”

In whose hands are the issues of life and death for every one of His children. May the dead rest in peace, and the living lay it to heart.

Inasmuch, as it has pleased the great Disposer of all events, after a protracted illness to call from time to eternity our much esteemed and highly-respected townsman and fellow-citizen, the Hon. JOHN M. MOREHEAD,—we deem it meet and appropriate to give this public expression of our sense of his many virtues, and of our profound sorrow at the loss which we have sustained by his death; therefore—

*Resolved*, That we deeply deplore the loss, in him, of one of our oldest and most valuable and useful citizens—that, as a tribute of respect to his memory, we recommend that all places of business shall be closed and all business suspended in town, from 9 o'clock to-morrow until the close of the funeral services.

*Resolved*, That we will attend his burial and perform for him the last sad offices of the living to the dead, by committing his mortal remains to the grave, till God shall bid them rise.



*Resolved*, That we sincerely sympathise with the bereaved family of our departed friend, in this afflictive visitation of Divine Providence, and assure them of our fellowship in their sorrows.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the widow and family of the deceased, and also copies for publication in the town paper.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The committee having the body in charge reported that the funeral will take place, from the residence of the deceased, on to-morrow, the 31st, at 10 o'clock, and reported the following named citizens as pall-bearers: Dr. Wm. R. Holt, of Lexington; Hon. James Ruffin, of Alamance; A. S. Buford, of Virginia; and John A. Gilmer, Ralph Gorrell, David Scott, Peter Adams, Robert M. Sloan, Richard Sterling, A. P. Eckel, of Greensboro'.

A. P. ECKEL, *Ch'mn.*

R. STERLING, *Sec'y.*

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From the Greensboro Patriot.

## THE DEATH OF GOV. MOREHEAD—MEETING OF THE BAR OF GUILFORD COUNTY.

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A meeting of the Bar of Guilford county was held on Tuesday of the Term of the Superior Court now in session, in the Court-House; present, Judge D. G. Fowle and a very full attendance of the members of the profession and many citizens.

The meeting was called to order by Judge Kerr, on whose motion Ralph Gorrell, Esq., was called to the Chair, and John H. Dillard and Wm. L. Scott selected as Secretaries. Judge Kerr then said it was his melancholy duty to announce to the meeting the death of their late

professional brother, JOHN M. MOREHEAD, and moved the appointment of a committee of three to prepare a series of resolutions expressive of the sense of the members of the Bar in the loss which they had sustained; and the motion being concurred in, the Chairman appointed Judge Kerr, Thomas Ruffin, Jr., and J. R. McLean as the committee.

The committee after an absence of a few minutes returned and through Judge Kerr, their Chairman, reported the following preamble and resolutions:

In the month of August last by a melancholy dispensation of Divine Providence, North Carolina, in the death of JOHN M. MOREHEAD, was bereaved of one of her most enterprising and patriotic statesman, and the Bar of Guilford of its oldest and most distinguished member, its ornament and object of its just pride.

For many years he was the acknowledged leader in the circuit in which he practised, and for industry and energy in the preparation of his cases, and ability in the argument of them, especially to the Jury, he was never surpassed by any man we have known.

To his general ability as an advocate and lawyer, he united the higher attractions of an amiable temper, a uniform courtesy in his intercourse with his brethren, and to the *Junior* members of the Bar was *kind*, beyond the demands of mere professional fellowship, exhibiting at all times a generous sympathy with them in their efforts to rise in their calling, causing them to feel that his was no *calculating friendship*, but the genuine fruit of a noble nature, too exalted for the indulgence of envy and too conscious of its own real power to fear the competition of others.

As a statesman his name is indissolubly associated with those of the most venerable and illustrious sons of North Carolina: his most enduring monument are her great works of benevolence and Internal Improvements which his genius did so much to originate and permanently establish.

In the fullness of his years he was taken from life, leaving to us as a rich inheritance the fruits of his labors for the public good, and the memory of his ennobling example. The results of his public services belong in common to us all: his example as a lawyer is the especial heritage of his

brethren of the Bar, who keeping it in constant memory will rise by its influence to higher degrees of attainment and a more dignified bearing within and without the forensic circle.

*Resolved*, That our hearts are in full sympathy with the people of North Carolina generally, in their deep feelings of sorrow for the loss of JOHN M. MOREHEAD, and especially do we condole with the widow and children and other relatives of our distinguished brother in their great bereavement, and we most respectfully tender to them the assurances of our anxious wishes for their future continual welfare and happiness.

*Resolved*, That the Honorable Thomas Settle, the Solicitor for this circuit, be requested at the meeting of the court to present these resolutions to his Honor, the presiding Judge, and ask that they be spread upon the Records of the Court.

These resolutions, after very interesting addresses from the Hon. John Kerr, Hon. R. P. Dick, Hon. J. R. McLean and Hon. Thos. Ruffin, were unanimously adopted, and it was ordered by the meeting that they be published in *The Greensboro' Patriot*, and a copy of the same sent to the widow of Gov. MOREHEAD.

RALPH GORRELL. *Cl'mn.*

JOHN H. DILLARD, }  
WM. L. SCOTT. } *Secretaries.*

Mr. Settle, on presenting the above resolutions, and asking that they be recorded in the Minutes of the Court, accompanied them with the following remarks:

*May it please your Honor:* I was directed by a meeting of the Bar held here on yesterday to lay before your Honor the resolutions of that meeting, with the request that they be spread upon the Minutes of your Honor's Court.

I inherited, may it please your Honor, reverence and respect for Gov. MOREHEAD, and I trust that I shall be indulged while I recite a few of the many incidents of his eventful life. He was born in Pittsylvania county, Virginia, on the fourth day of July, 1796. His parents re-



moved to Rockingham county, North Carolina, when he was two years of age. They were not slow in discovering that Providence had lavished her bounties upon their child, and although in very moderate circumstances, they determined to develop by education his great mental powers.

In those days I learn that it was a rare thing to meet in Rockingham a man who had studied Latin, and such a thing as a classical school was unheard of. For the want of a better instructor in 1810-'11, old Mr. Morehead placed his son JOHN with his neighbor and friend, my father, who had studied Latin and Greek for a few months at Caswell Court House, and had just obtained a license to practise law; and there, between the teacher and his solitary student, commenced a friendship and intimacy which death alone terminated. He went from my father's care to that of the Rev. Dr. Caldwell, of Guilford county, where he was prepared for College. He joined the Senior Class, and here at College as well as at Dr. Caldwell's, he displayed those same traits of character which afterwards marked his life. At school and college he at once marched to the head of his class, and such was his proficiency in the languages, that he was taken from the Senior Class when half advanced and made a Tutor in the University, and at the Commencement in 1817, when his class graduated, the faculty awarded him a diploma. Shortly thereafter he commenced the study of law with the Hon. Archibald D. Murphy, and obtained a license to practise in June, 1819, and settled in Wentworth, the County Seat of Rockingham, where he soon obtained a full practice. In 1821, he was elected to the House of Commons from Rockingham, and shortly thereafter, upon his marriage with Ann Eliza, the daughter of the late Col. Robert Lindsay, he removed to Guilford, the place of his residence until his death. In 1826-'27, he represented Guilford county in the



House of Commons. From this period until 1840, he devoted himself to the practice of his profession, in which he was the acknowledged leader in all the courts he attended.

In 1840, as the Whig candidate for Governor, he conducted a campaign against the Hon. R. M. Saunders as the Democratic candidate, which was marked by great ability on both sides, and is remembered and spoken of to this day as a battle of giants. The result was, his triumphant election. For his second term he was opposed by a gentleman of no ordinary ability, the late Louis D. Henry, but again, as on all previous and subsequent occasions, when a candidate, he proved to be the favorite of the people. Upon the expiration of his term of office as Governor, he devoted himself to his private affairs, and only came before the people to plead for great works of internal improvement and objects of charity and benevolence, until 1858-'9, when he again represented Guilford in the House of Commons. It was at that session that I realized the fact which I had often heard from others, that JOHN M. MOREHEAD was the greatest man the State of North Carolina had ever produced. At that session he and his plans of internal improvement were made an object of vigorous attack by men of much ability. For a time the attack seemed overwhelming, and Gov. MOREHEAD's friends feared that he would not be able to repel it. For five days he sat and received it in silence, but when he rose and as he proceeded with his defence, friend, foe and every body else was struck with amazement. We could scarcely realize the fact that any man possessed such powers of argument and of eloquence.

His vindication was so complete that even his assailants openly acknowledged it.

In 1860 he represented Guilford in the Senate, and was one of the Commissioners from North Carolina to the Peace Congress at Washington. He was a member of the

Confederate Congress. It can be truthfully said of him that he never sought office; indeed he seems to have had an aversion to holding office. I suppose that Gov. MOREHEAD has left but little written material from which his history can be gathered; he never spoke or wrote for display, but always to accomplish some object, and we have only to look at North Carolina to read his history. We read it in her works of Internal Improvement from the mountains to the sea-board.

You cannot look at your magnificent institutions for the care and protection of your deaf, dumb, blind and insane, without remembering the eloquent efforts of JOHN M. MOREHEAD in their behalf.

North Carolina has produced some few men who were doubtless the superiors of Gov. MOREHEAD in certain departments. Judge Pearson, Judge Ruffin and Mr. Badger were, I suppose, his superiors in legal learning. Perhaps others were more accurate in political information, but taking him all in all, he was by far the greatest man that North Carolina has ever produced. His private life is as well worthy of imitation as his public life. He was a man of the strictest morality. He took a bright view of life, was happy and contented himself and tried to make others so. I well remember an expression used by him, the last time I saw him. The conversation had turned for some time upon the troubles which now surround our country, when Gov. MOREHEAD dismissed the subject with the remark, that "I was always a great Providence man; I leave all these things to Providence, well assured that he will bring good out of it yet." It was doubtless that principle that made him all that he was.

I now ask your Honor to direct that the resolutions passed by the bar be spread upon the Minutes of this Court.

From the Patriot.

## THE LATE GOVERNOR MOREHEAD.

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At a large assemblage of citizens of the County of Rockingham, convened at Wentworth on the 30th of October 1866, being Tuesday of Superior Court, on motion Dr. E. T. Brodnax was appointed Chairman, and Jones W. Burton, Esq., and Maj. W. S. Allen were requested to act as Secretaries ;

When Gen. A. M. Scales explained the object of the meeting to be to adopt resolutions expressive of the deep regret of the citizens of the county at their loss in the death of their late county-man, JOHN M. MOREHEAD. Gen. Scales concluded by giving a few thrilling incidents connected with the late eminent deceased.

On motion made and seconded, the Chairman appointed Gen. A. M. Scales, Col. F. Watkins and M. D. King, Esq., a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. The committee retired for that purpose. In the absence of the committee, Joseph Holderby, Esq., addressed the meeting as follows:

MR. CHAIRMAN:—I do not design making any extended remarks in relation to the life and character of the distinguished personage to whose memory this meeting has convened for the purpose of paying a last tribute of respect. But as my acquaintance commenced with the deceased more than half a century since, I ask permission to relate a few of the more prominent incidents of his life, which I do more for the purpose of giving some able eulogist *facts*, than with a view of adding any thing to the character of the illustrious personage whose loss the whole country mourns.

It has been published in some of the papers, that Gov. MOREHEAD was a native of this county; this is a mistake;

he was a native of the County of Pittsylvania, Virginia, where he was born on the fourth day of July 1796. His father removed from thence to this county when his son JOHN was but two years of age. He died on the 27th day of August last, being *seventy years*, one month and twenty-three days old.

At an early age he commenced going to school, which he continued to do until he graduated at the University of North Carolina in the year 1817; soon after, he commenced the study of law with Judge Murphy, and obtained license in 1819, and settled at this place, where, without any apparent effort on his part, he soon entered upon a lucrative practice, notwithstanding he had to compete with intellects such as those possessed by a Ruffin, a Murphy, a Settle and a Yancey,

He was elected to the House of Commons from this County in the year 1821, and in the year 1822 removed to the County of Guilford and settled in Greensboro', the place of his residence at the time of his death. At different times, though not desiring it, he was sent from Guilford to one or the other branches of the Legislature; and in the year 1840, in the great contest between Harrison and Van Buren, he was selected by his party as their leader, Gen. R. M. Saunders being his competitor for Governor of the State. Up to this time Gov. MOREHEAD had paid but little attention to national politics, and consequently combatted so formidable an adversary at a disadvantage; but, notwithstanding, at the close of the campaign, it appeared he had defeated his distinguished and eloquent rival by a majority of more than eight thousand votes. Two years after, he was opposed by the Hon. L. D. Henry, a gentleman of great ability, whom he also defeated, and closed his last term as Governor in the winter of 1844. From this time Gov. MOREHEAD turned his attention more particularly to his private affairs, which he



continued to do until the commencement of our late troubles, when he was elected to the Confederate Congress, in which body he served two years, and was never again a candidate for any office.

I will, sir, close my hasty and imperfect sketch by saying, that Gov. MOREHEAD was the most remarkable man it has ever been my fortune to know. All who knew him admit that he was a man of transcendent ability; and while he never attached himself to any Church, he was regarded by those who knew him best, as a man of singular purity of character; and it may well be said of him what Shakespeare makes Anthony say of Brutus—

His life was gentle, and the elements  
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up,  
And say to all the world, "*This was a man.*"

North Carolina will long, long cherish his memory as her great benefactor.

I hope, sir, that this meeting will appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to select some one to deliver an eulogy upon the life and character of the deceased, on Tuesday of our next May Court, who will be able to do justice to his exalted merits.

The committee now returned, and reported through their Chairman, Gen. Scales, the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the citizens of Rockingham county have heard with deep sorrow, of the death of their former distinguished county-man, JOHN M. MOREHEAD, who for nearly half a century devoted much of his time to the subject of Internal Improvement, and in endeavoring to develop the resources of North Carolina.

*Resolved*, That in his death the State has sustained an irreparable loss, but we must all bow in humble submission to the will of God "who doeth all things well."

*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with his bereaved widow, with his children and other relatives.

*Resolved*, That the Chairman of this meeting appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to select a speaker to deliver at this place, on Tuesday of our next May Court, a eulogy upon the life and character of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That the family of the deceased be furnished with a copy of these proceedings, and that the editor of *The Greensboro' Patriot* be requested to publish the same.

All of which resolutions were adopted by acclamation.

In obedience to the 4th resolution, the Chairman appointed Gov. Reid, Gen. Scales and Joseph Holderby, Esq., a committee to select a speaker, who forthwith reported that they had chosen Judge Kerr. The Judge being informed of his selection, consented to deliver the address on Tuesday of May County Court next.

After the reading of the resolutions, Judge Kerr and Gov. Reid being called upon, delivered short but most eloquent and thrilling speeches.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

E. T. BRODNAX, *Chm'n.*

JONES W. BURTON, }  
W. S. ALLEN,        } *Secretaries.*

# ORATION

ON THE

Life and Character of John M. Morehead,

LATE GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA,

DELIVERED AT WENTWORTH, ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, 1867, BEFORE THE MEMBERS  
OF THE BAR, AND THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM,  
AT THEIR REQUEST, BY

HON. JOHN KERR,

OF CASWELL COUNTY.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

WENTWORTH, February 26th, 1867.

At a meeting of the citizens and members of the Bar this day held in the Court House in Wentworth, on motion Robert B. Watt, Esq., was called to the Chair. Hon. J. R. McLean offered the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the Hon. John Kerr, for his able and eloquent Address upon the life and character of the late Gov. JOHN M. MOREHEAD, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication.

*Resolved*, That the Hon. A. M. Scales, Geo. L. Aiken, Esq., Dr. E. T. Brodnax, Hon. D. S. Reid and John H. Dillard, Esq., be appointed a committee to communicate the proceedings of this meeting to Mr. Kerr.

Which were unanimously adopted.

ROBERT B. WATT, *Ch'mn.*

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HON. JOHN KERR: *Sir*: In obedience to the above resolutions we have the honor and the pleasure to tender to you the thanks of all who heard your truly eloquent and appropriate Address this day delivered, and in the

name of the Bar and the community at large, we earnestly solicit a copy of the same for publication. Allow us to express our own gratification, and to add our solicitation to that of the meeting.

A. M. SCALES,  
D. S. REID,  
GEO. L. AIKEN,  
DR. E. T. BRODNAX,  
JOHN H. DILLARD.

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WENTWORTH, February 26th, 1867.

GENTLEMEN: Your note of this date accompanied with a copy of the proceedings of a meeting of the Bar, and citizens of the County of Rockingham, held this day in Wentworth, has been received. The copy of my Address which you request me to furnish for publication shall be placed at your disposal in due time.

I am deeply impressed with thankfulness to my brethren of the Bar, and to the people of Rockingham for the generous spirit in which they received my humble effort to render a tribute of honor to the memory of one of the greatest men our State has ever cherished or ever lost, and can but regret, that the tribute itself falls so far short of doing justice to the merits of the illustrious subject to which it refers. With high respect and warm regard, I remain your friend, and obedient servant,

JOHN KERR.

Gen. A. M. Scales, David S. Reid, George L. Aiken.  
E. T. Brodnax, John H. Dillard, *Committee.*

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## ORATION.

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“Great men are the guide posts and landmarks in the State. The credit of such men, at court and in the nation, is the sole cause of all the public measures.”

Such was the opinion of Burke, himself the greatest statesman of Europe, at the brightest era of its statesmen.

It is sustained by the testimony of History and the reflections of all well-informed minds.



We are forced to *respect* great men. Their influence for good or for evil is to a great extent irresistible. If they be virtuous we should likewise honor them, and thus aid *them*, in their laudable aims, and incite others to imitate their high examples.

But great men *reflect* as well as *receive* honor. States and Kingdoms are exalted, and rendered illustrious, by the talents and virtues of those whom they produce or whom they cherish.

Old Greece and Rome have escaped oblivion only because of the great men who are prominent in their annals—whose deeds impart life and immortality to their histories.

History itself, when well written, is little else than the biographies of the master spirits who shape and direct the affairs of nations. Communities, large or small, must ever be indebted for respectability, and influence, *chiefly*, to the *individuals* of high moral and mental worth who may be identified with them.

These reflections may lead us to appreciate properly the duties and proprieties of the present occasion.

We are assembled to render homage to the talents and virtues, and respect to the memory of one of the most gifted sons of North Carolina.

In the month of August last, JOHN MOTLEY MOREHEAD having with eminent usefulness and fidelity served his generation, like the old monarch of Israel, "fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers." The State which nurtured him, and which he so long and so faithfully served, mourns him still with the unabating sorrow of a true maternal heart; and from every section in her boundaries, we have received unequivocal expressions of the high estimation in which he was held while living and of the deep sense of the loss *she* has sustained by his death. He was indeed her *true representative man*. His character was after the

model of her own. He was great without ostentation. His talents were *useful* rather than shining. He was unambitious, save of honors *which sought him*, or were obtained without intrigue or base surrender to the immoral currents of popular sentiment. In fine, though her son only by adoption and nurture, he bore *her* venerable image in a more striking developement than any other one of her children. *He* was very dear to *her* heart, and she was equally so to *his*.

He was born, as is well known, in the adjoining county of Pittsylvania, State of Virginia, on the 4th day of July 1796. At a very early stage of his infancy his parents removed to this county and settled upon the waters of the Dan. In this immediate vicinity, among the people of this county, he was brought up from the tender age of two years, and is therefore to be regarded to all intents as a son of Rockingham. Here his childhood, youth, and earlier manhood were passed; and from the natural objects and social influences of this county, he derived his first lasting impressions of human life, arising outside of the family circle, and here too his earliest friendships were formed, and the first displays were made of the talents and genius with which God had endowed him.

It is peculiarly proper then that the people of Rockingham should make known to the world, their high appreciation of his character, and aim to impress upon the minds of their sons, the lesson his successful life so strikingly teaches, and thus gather and garner, for the county the harvest of honor he has sown, and perpetuate for their children the inspiring influence of his example.

The proper discharge of the service your kindness has assigned to me, requires that I shall present him to your contemplation both in his private and public relations.

A beneficent Providence confers upon the children of men no earthly gift more precious, more inestimable, than

that of *good parents*,—parents who properly love and rightfully train their offspring under a deep sense of responsibility to society and to God. This gift was vouchsafed to him of whom I now speak.

He was the son of John Morehead, Esquire, late of this county, who was well known to some of the older persons now present. A prominent magistrate in his day, he was distinguished for his probity and his genial temper in his general intercourse,—whilst in the family circle he was venerated and almost idolized for the playfulness, gentleness, and uniform loving kindness by which he constantly diffused the sun-rays of happiness on “the loved ones at home.”

His mother was Obedience Motley, a native of Virginia, as was his father also. His parents were united in marriage in 1789, and he was their first born son who lived to maturity,—and was *their pride*. From his mother he inherited some of the most striking of his mental and moral features. Indeed, in a majority of cases, it is the mother “that makes the man.” From her tones of voice, heard in song and in colloquy, the infant catches his first conceptions of gentleness and love, and from her precepts he learns his first lessons of virtue or of vice: as influenced by her, his tender and impressible mind reaches upward to the high invitings of duty and religion, or inclines downward to the Circean sty of sloth and sensuality. These first impressions may in some instances be counteracted by the *strong* character of the father, and by other causes, but they are *never entirely* eradicated. Their effect upon the destiny of the child will be exhibited in degrees more or less striking throughout the entire course of life.

The mother of my lamented friend was possessed of mental faculties of no ordinary cast, and of moral qualities which eminently fitted her to train her offspring for the struggles of life. She was tender and affectionate,

and won the hearts of her children. She was frugal and industrious, and enforced these habits on them. She was strict in discipline, without being capricious or tyrannical in her humors. She recognized the fifth commandment as fundamental in household government, and would neither excuse nor wink at the slightest disregard of its sacred injunction. Her authority was maintained not by operating on the servile fears of her children, but by the magic power of maternal love, in happy combination with maternal dignity. In the practical application of her system of government, a constant requisition of her children was that they should avoid bad company.

When permitted to visit places of public resort on public occasions, the length of time they could remain was prescribed with exactness, and in no case were they allowed to linger about such places until the shades of departing day came on, when the prevalent habits of the times rendered it certain that demoralizing exhibitions of intemperance and other vices would occur to contaminate their young hearts and minds. And as they never went from home without her approbation so they remained their appointed time with cheerful self-approving hearts and returned to meet a smiling face and receive the maternal kiss, and relate the incidents of their juvenile travels to the ever-willing ears of their beloved parents.

Can any picture be more attractive than this? A father and mother in the full fruition of connubial happiness,—the children under strict but gentle and healthful discipline—and all constituting a circle in which the father's amiability and the mother's assiduous and firm devotion to her duties, combine, to make it in the language of one who belonged to it, and was one of its brightest ornaments, "the happiest home circle ever known." Yet they were not unacquainted with the visitings of adversity. The father experienced the pains and penalties of pecuniary



embarrassment, but the wife and mother who partook with gladness the joys of his prosperity submitted with patience and cheerfulness to his reverse of fortune; and by uniting diligence and indomitable energy, greatly alleviated what she could not entirely remove;—aiding him by the suggestions of her discriminating and calm judgment in his trying struggles with the exigencies to which he was subjected.

'Twas under such auspices, that JOHN M. MOREHEAD'S childhood and early youth were passed. Could any have been better fitted to impart high moral forces to his character?

But he was to be educated, and schools, except such as were of very inferior grade, were unknown in the vicinity in which he was brought up.

By whom he was first taught I know not. I have only been able to learn that he studied Latin for a short time, with the friend of his early and his latter days—the late Judge Settle—that leaving him he was placed at the school of Dr. David Caldwell, by whom he was prepared for college and from Dr. Caldwell's school he went to the University of our State, where he graduated in 1817 with distinction. While at school in early boyhood he was diligent in his application to his books, to a degree that impaired his health, and forced his father to detain him at home frequently. "He submitted to these interruptions under strong protest, and returned always to his studies with redoubled vigor." At college the same industry and energy marked his course, and he there gave assurance of his future eminence by the laurels he won in competition with such classmates as John Y. Mason of Virginia and James K. Polk of Tennessee. Leaving the University, he entered himself a student of law in the office of the late Judge Archibald D. Murphy a man of rare attainments—of talents and genius of the highest order. From

this eminent preceptor he learned in addition to the principles of the common law, much that enabled him to display in his subsequent career, his consummate art and address as an advocate.

Those who knew Gov. MOREHEAD intimately will remember his abiding fondness for and great admiration of the gifted man with whom he studied for his profession. He delighted to speak of his efforts at the Bar, and often instructed while he amused the younger members of the profession with anecdotes illustrative of his varied powers. Finishing his studies he was licensed and came to the bar at Rockingham in 1819.

For the first three years of his professional life this village was the place of his residence—and here he formed attachments, which subsequent vicissitudes neither destroyed nor weakened.

Among the friends of his early years, to whom I have heard him refer with affectionate warmth, was the late Robert Galloway, the younger, with whom he lived during his residence here on terms of a perfect union of hearts. He lamented his untimely death as a public calamity, and mourned it to the last as a personal bereavement. He loved him as a friend not only, but he esteemed him also as a gentleman “fulfilled of nobleness, courtesy and honor” and with him was wont to “take sweet counsel” touching the duties of life. But death breaks the dearest ties of earth—yet it cannot separate forever the spirits of congenial beings—who but begin in time, friendships and loves which continue through eternity. After a separation of more than thirty years—*these* two friends have met again.

Gov. MOREHEAD, on coming to the Bar, soon obtained a competent practice, became prominent and rapidly rose to eminence. When I entered the profession in 1832, I met him here at the May Term of the County Court, and

found him occupying the position of leader on his circuit. I was pleased with his appearance, was attracted by his amenity and fascinated by his talents.

His personal presence was imposing, his face beamed with kindness, and when he addressed the court and jury, I heard him with delight and was filled with admiration. Then began with me an attachment to him which never ceased during his life, but which was strengthened by many tokens of kindness on his part, that were the more sensibly felt, because they were believed to be the offspring of *sincere regard* and not of *calculating selfishness*.

While residing here he was elected in 1822 to the Legislature, and returned as one of the members of the House of Commons for this county. What *role* he played in that session I know not, but it is certain his talents and attainments were such as to secure him high position in such a body. In the same year another event in his life occurred, which perhaps was the most potential in its influence on his subsequent career, of any that could have taken place. He was united in marriage to Eliza, the eldest daughter of the late Col. Robert Lindsay, of Guilford. Man with all his pretensions to dignity in the scale of being,—with his claim to superiority as “lord of this terrestrial sphere,” is nevertheless in civilized society under a moral subserviency to woman. By the action of those influences which have their fountain in the Gospel Code, but which were brought out into prominent effective agency by the spirit and genius of the age of chivalry, woman has risen from a condition of *quasi* slavery to the height of sovereign Queen-Regnant in the hearts of men, and her sway for good or for evil is next to irresistible. To be happily married, therefore, is a blessing of God, the richest in enjoyment and benefits of any that has been allowed our race since the fall. The affectionate respect of a wife for her husband—her glad participation of the

joys of his prosperity—her cordial sympathy and soothing suggestions in adversity—her countless ministrations of love, in sickness and in sorrow,—these, *these*, constitute the elements of power by which her throne is established and her reign is perpetuated, and all true, brave, knightly hearts are proud to acknowledge their allegiance to her, and would die if need be for the maintenance of her government. Poltroons, only, *voluntarily* recoil from the duties and responsibilities of married life, and disown the sway of woman. All the advantages and bliss of a most fortunate marriage were in the dispensations of Providence allotted to Governor MOREHEAD. The lady of his early,—perhaps his *first* love,—became the wife of his bosom, the mother of his children, the sharer of all his fortunes and feelings, his counsellor and gentle guide for more than forty years.

There is no situation in which he was placed, where he shone with a more attractive lustre than in his family circle. His characteristic discretion and wisdom were displayed in his choice of a wife. Her qualities of heart and mind were exactly suited to his taste, and the congeniality between her and himself was striking even to a casual visitor to their hospitable home. They lived in the state of blessedness, which springs *alone* from such congeniality,—themselves happy in one another, they diffused happiness to all around them and guided their children more by the influence of this heaven-descended harmony than by the exercise of parental authority. Their children saw that *they were happy*, and were rendered so by mutual affection and mutual respect. They thus learned to love and respect one another, and became happy themselves in the society of each other. *Home* with all its sacred influences, was endeared to them, and they were preserved from the manifold undercurrents of vice which flow *without*, beyond the reach of the parental eye. In



this domestic circle, we discover the true secret of the invaluable art of bringing up a family. The parents showed forth the virtues they inculcated—they were seen by their offspring to be attentive to *all* the duties of life—they were truthful in word and in heart—cheerful in temper, refined in sentiment and just in their judgments of others. In every such case, as in the one now before us, parents may be assured their children will shine with virtues *reflected* and virtues *inherent*, and “will rise up, and call them blessed.”

The canons of good taste forbid me to give you the best illustration of the truth of these observations. I can only say in this presence, that the honored individual whose eulogy I am called to pronounce, was most signally rewarded for the amenities and virtues he exhibited in the domestic circle, by the graces of his daughters, and the sterling qualities of his sons.

His wife, advanced to a venerable age, still survives to enjoy this recompense, and sheds the mild radiance of Christian piety, long professed, over the track of her closing life. To her is due the tribute of our admiration for her virtues, and of thankfulness for the service she rendered her country in the assistance she gave her illustrious husband in his arduous labors for the public good.

Soon after his marriage, Gov MOREHEAD left Rockingham, and became a citizen of Guilford county, in which he resided for the residue of his life. As in this, so in that county, he soon became the “foremost man of all,” and was elected in 1827 to represent Guilford in the Legislature. It was at this session, that he came in conflict with John Stanley, in debate on a proposition, as I learn, having reference to a change in our judicial system.

Mr. Stanley was Speaker of the House of Commons at that time, and left the chair to reply to Mr. MOREHEAD,

and was in the act of doing so, when he was stricken down with paralysis.

It may have been by some deemed fortunate, for one so young and unpractised in debate as Gov. MOREHEAD then was, to have thus escaped as he did, the scathing wit and argument of an orator so eminent and a parliamentary debater so accomplished as was Mr. Stanley.

Of the merits of the question in discussion between them, I know nothing—but of this I feel assured, that whatever Gov. MOREHEAD undertook to maintain on that occasion, notwithstanding his youthfulness, he maintained with an ability that commanded the respect of his adversary, and was far beyond the reach of the ridicule with which Mr. Stanley was wont to assail those whom he opposed in debate. Stanley, it may be, was able to excel him in the beauties of rhetoric, purity of diction, and the general graces of oratory, but I am not disposed to believe, from any production of his mind that I have seen and read, that he could have surpassed Gov. MOREHEAD in the force of *argument*.

How often Gov. MOREHEAD represented Guilford in the Legislature I am not informed; he was certainly, however, a representative from that county several times, prior to 1840, as well as several times after.

In 1840, he was placed in the lead of the Whig party of the State, as their candidate for Governor, and had for his competitor the Hon. Romulus M. Saunders, the able champion of the Democratic party.

This is the most memorable political campaign in our annals, and the contest between the two gentlemen named was attended with many incidents of most exciting interest. It was the first time the State was ever canvassed by candidates for the office of Governor, and this novelty of itself was not without great influence in attracting the attention of the people. Large crowds assembled to hear

them when they spoke, and their speeches were received with animating plaudits by their friends. But the political issues of the time were of much magnitude and intensely engaged the public mind. Each party, confiding in its principles and fully satisfied with its champion, felt hopeful of success. The canvass was a protracted one. It opened in Orange in the second week in March and closed in the second week in August.

For five months the candidates were engaged in their laborious undertaking, traversing the State from the sea-coast to the Tennessee and Georgia lines beyond the mountains. They frequently met, but did not always travel in the same direction at the same time. If either was absent, however, from a point where the other addressed the people, his place in debate was supplied by some party friend zealous in his cause. I witnessed several trials of skill and strength between them, and was bound to yield to both the homage of my admiration. Judge Saunders, having been long prominently connected with political pursuits, had more political information *in the beginning of the canvass* than Gov. MOREHEAD had, but in the art of influencing the masses by appeals to their interests and feelings, as well as in the force of legitimate argument, the latter was in my opinion greatly superior to the former.

Mr. MOREHEAD was elected by a majority of about eight thousand, which, considering the state of public opinion previously, and the adverse influence of the party in power at the time, was triumphant. There is one circumstance connected with the history of that canvass deserving special notice, as illustrative of Gov. MOREHEAD'S peculiar power and address as a popular advocate.

He had been a political supporter of General Jackson, having voted for him on two occasions for President in the Electoral College of North Carolina. When the

Whig party was formed, however, he connected himself with it, and was accused by some of his old party associates of inconsistency and of abandoning his principles. He met the charge by an indignant denial, and boldly made the issue, and successfully maintained it, that he had not deserted the principles on which Jackson was brought into the Presidential office, nor Jackson himself, but that whilst *he* had remained, and was still, a steadfast Jackson man, his competitor, forsooth, *had changed* and become a *Van Buren* man.

In vain did his competitor endeavor to ridicule the idea, that Governor MOREHEAD or any other man should be a better Jackson man than *Jackson himself*, who was also well known to be in favor of Van Buren; he persevered in maintaining it, with a strong array of proofs, and carried the people with him, and to this day a large number of the original supporters of General Jackson believe and affirm that Judge Saunders deserted Jackson for Van Buren, while Gov. MOREHEAD remained steadfast in his adherence to *Jackson*, as well as to his principles.

He was inducted into office as Governor of the State on the first of January, 1841, and then commenced a series of attacks upon him, which, while they subjected his fortitude to severe trial, were yet the occasion of the development of the highest and most sterling traits of his character. In office, he was, as is now conceded even by those who were once opposed to him, eminently firm and patriotic in the discharge of his duties—wielding all his influence, personal and official, for the public good alone, unswayed by party, unseduced by the suggestions of passion aroused by a sense of personal injury, and unregardful of the motives of personal ambition.

He was re-elected Governor in 1842, and served his second term under all the embarrassments incident to having a majority against him in the Legislature and an



Executive council composed entirely of his political opponents. His competitor in 1842 was the late Louis D. Henry (a man of fine speaking talents, but whose health prevented him from canvassing the State thoroughly,) whom he defeated by a majority of about five thousand, notwithstanding at the time, the Whig party were in great apathy and discouragement, owing to the untimely death of Gen. Harrison, and the defection of Mr. Tyler.

With his second term as Governor closed his connection with politics except as a private citizen, until the year 1858, when he was returned to the Legislature as a member of the House of Commons from Guilford. I served with him in the session of 1858-'9, being myself a member from Caswell. Between the time of his retirement from the office of Governor, and his return to the Legislature, many conflicting interests had arisen out of the various railroad enterprises of the State. He was the first President of the North Carolina Rail Road Company, and under his auspices it was first put in operation, and was conducted successfully for a number of years. \*

By his administration of its affairs, he incurred much censure and formidable opposition. But now that time and death have combined to subdue passion, and remove prejudice, and repeated investigations have disclosed the difficulties of his situation, and the motives which governed his actions, he stands fully vindicated, and high praise is accorded him for the industry, energy and ability he displayed in managing the affairs of the Company. After years of laborious devotion of his faculties to the service of the corporation and the State, he retired, in the language of a just tribute from the pen of another, "fighting swindlers and contractors to the last."

It was in the House of Commons at the Session of 1858-'9, that he was made the object of repeated attacks

by several prominent and able members for his course generally in regard to our Rail Road system. The manner in which he met and repelled those attacks will be long remembered by all who witnessed the scene. His seat in the Hall and my own were nearly contiguous. Just before he rose to answer his assailants, seeing that he was deeply excited, I stepped across the aisle, and whispered thus in his ear, "Governor, do your *best*. You are the most abused and most injured man in North Carolina." With an eye, flashing light through water at me, he promptly responded, "How shall I deal with them, my friend,"—shall I treat them *gently*, or shall I make myself the Wellington of the occasion and *vanquish* them completely?" "*Play Wellington*," said I. "*I will*," he replied, with energetic action.

In a few moments he rose, and commenced his speech in tones of voice betokening just the degree of excitement so useful to him—so necessary to rouse the lion in him. *And he did play Wellington, if ever man did*, on battle field or in parliament!

Never was there a more brilliant victory won, than he achieved that day. His assailants were driven from all their positions in confusion, were pursued and routed, "horse, foot and dragoons." They were men of no mean abilities,—they were *strong men*, and the House felt the shock of battle while the conflict lasted. But when he closed his defense, his assailants bore the air of deep dejection and discomfiture.

The House was enraptured with the display of power on the part of Governor MOREHEAD, and no further charges were heard against him—no other attacks upon him made during the session, but all other feelings and sentiments were merged in unbounded admiration of "the old man eloquent."

He was a member of the succeeding Legislature as Senator from Guilford, but I have no knowledge of his acts during the session. We were then upon the very verge of the conflict of arms, which has recently convulsed our great republic and laid us all in ruins.

He was selected, with Judge Ruffin, Gov. Reid, George Davis and Daniel M. Barringer, to represent North Carolina in what was designated the "Peace Congress" which met in Washington in February, 1861.

The object of this convocation of patriots and statesmen, was to avert, if possible, by some fair and just adjustment of our differences, a dissolution of the Union, and the consequent calamities of civil war. Their efforts were unavailing, and some who went to that Congress opposed to a separation of the Southern States from the Union, returned in favor of it, as a measure of unavoidable necessity.

To this class Gov. MOREHEAD belonged. He had ever been a *union man* in sentiment and feeling, and always denied the *right* of a State to *secede*.

He was deeply imbued with the political teachings of Washington, and was accustomed "to frown indignantly on every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest." He contemplated with exulting pride the moral sublimity of our attitude among the nations. Embracing, as our country does from east to west, the immense space between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, from north to south reaching from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, with corresponding magnitude of dimensions from north-east to south-east, and from north-west to south-west, with resources of subsistence, wealth and power, adequate to the accomplishment of all the just hopes of patriots and philanthropists, without the unnecessary shedding of a brother's blood, or the robbery of a sister State or nation—it was the anxious wish of his true heart, that the insti-

tutions of government established by our fathers should be preserved in their full integrity and strength, over all this imperial domain, and that their blessings might be diffused—not by force of arms—but by the force of *truth* throughout the earth. But the malign influences which are ever at work against the best interest of man, and the glory of God, had for years been “enfeebling the ties which linked together the various parts of our country, and finally brought us to the dire extremity of war.”

When the portentous issue became inevitable, Governor MOREHEAD did not hesitate which side to take. With his whole soul he espoused the cause of his *native* land, and devoted all his resources of mind and estate to its defense. The war closed while he yet lived, closed by the most overwhelming defeat of the Southern States.

His personal losses were immense. The casualties of battle had sent deep mourning into the bosom of his family. Yet he murmured not, nor apologised for any service he had rendered his stricken and blasted country, but owned himself a patriot still—in adversity, more than in prosperity.

As a member of the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States, to which he was sent by our State Convention, he displayed his accustomed diligence, sagacity and wisdom, and won the highest respect and confidence of President Davis, our then elevated Chief—since fallen, alas! from *office*, but still, *thrice* exalted—exalted by his talents, exalted by his virtues, yet more exalted by his martyr-sufferings for *liberty's most holy cause*!

After his service in the Provisional Congress closed, he applied himself with singular industry to the duties of the private citizen in times of national discord and calamities.

*He went to work, and worked hard*, to aid in feeding and clothing the soldiers who were suffering and fighting for us away off in the war ranks; and he remembered, too,



their aged fathers and mothers, their wives and their little ones, whom they had left behind at home.

Did he then visit and minister unto these disconsolate ones? Verily he did. But where is the evidence of the fact? It is not to be found in any thing *he* was ever heard to *say* about it. Certainly not. He dispensed his charities under the christian injunction,—“not to let his left hand know what his right hand did.”

But his Samaritan deeds are not unknown, and will not be unremembered.

Go ask his steward at Leaksville what *he was required* to do for the poor by Gov. MOREHEAD during the whole course of the war. Let that steward in his own way tell of the numbers who literally lived upon Governor MOREHEAD'S bounties, and yet were supplied in such a way as to preserve their self-respect and prevent the humiliating consciousness on their parts of abject dependence. That steward thus writes to me.

“The Governor was frequently solicited by poor women, when they found him here, for aid. This he rarely ever gave in person. He would waive the subject and state to *them*, that he was doing his part, as much as he could afford, would tell them they must not depend so much on him, but try to get some aid from others. He would then *privately* inquire of me about their circumstances, and what aid if any they had received from him, and would frequently instruct us to let them have cotton, *not in his name*, or that he was knowing to it, but to let them have it, telling them we were not at liberty to sell on credit, but they could take it and pay for it when they were able. This he intended as a gift, but did not allow them so to understand it.”

Now this was doing a right thing in the right way. Many a poor heart has been pierced with anguish to the

core, even when a kindness was dispensed to it, by the *manner* in which it was done.

True charity has its seat deep in the soul, and shedding its influence over all the conduct, is as careful of the *mode* of its deeds as of the deeds themselves.

But hear this steward again. In the same letter, together with several other like incidents he relates the following: "A young man who had been doing business for him for several years, managing his farm, was about to leave and go to farming on his own account. The Governor settled off with him in full—I aided in the settlement. The Governor did not then say any thing about doing any thing more for him, probably because he did not wish it known.

"As he bid the young man farewell, however, he said, 'you are about to go to farming on your own account, take this small mite, in addition to your salary, as a mark of my respect for your industry and faithful services, and if you need aid at any time call upon me.' The sum he thus gave him was a fifty dollar note, worth at the time fifty dollars in gold, as I afterwards learned from the young man."

But the detail of such acts of his would fill a volume. Let these two taken from a multitude of the same sort, serve as the illustration of his *manner* of responding to the benevolent impulses of his nature. His beneficence was not by any means confined to his employees. His deeds of kindness and generosity were limited in number only by the objects he met with standing in need of them. Yet he has been *accused* of cold unfeeling selfishness.

There are a thousand living hearts now beating strongly with gratitude to him that will *indignantly* repel the charge. Widows and orphans, and helpless maidens old, in numbers large, still live to vindicate, by feeling acknowledgments of personal ministrations to them in

their time of need, his honored name against the unjust aspersion. *He was not a cold and selfish man.* This whole community will proclaim the contrary to be true. To him it stands indebted for having relieved it of a heavy charge, which but for his good management and liberality would have fallen upon it, to support the wives and children of soldiers, and other indigent persons, during the late war.

The man of cold and selfish nature, though often *apparently* liberal to the rich and the great, is never so to the really low and abject. Gov. MOREHEAD's benevolence and charity flowed down into the lowest vales of human life. His slaves experienced the fruits of his all-reaching sympathies. He had nothing to look for in return from them, which could gratify vanity, or nourish pride—yet he was attentive to all their wants in sickness and in health, and their very appearance proclaimed the superior kindness and clemency which it was their lot to enjoy under his government. They loved him while he lived, and now that he is no more, some of them have been heard to say that could he have lived, they would have preferred being his slaves *always* to being free.

Well may they so feel and so express themselves, poor homeless outcasts! They are destined to discover, that the political philanthropy, which goes about like a deranged knight errant in search of adventures with imaginary evils, will supply them with no adequate *substitute* for the blessings of which it has deprived them.

When the war closed, as I have already intimated, Gov. MOREHEAD found himself a great loser by its results. He not only lost his slaves, of whom he was the owner of a large number, but he also lost a great amount of investments in Confederate bonds, and a very considerable sum of Confederate money which he had on hand. Except for a short time, when he was forced to do so in order to

get supplies of indispensable necessity for the employees of his factory, he never refused to take Confederate money for any thing he had for sale, alleging as his reason for so doing, that it would have a tendency to discredit the currency and injure the Confederate cause if he pursued the opposite course. It was not from any want of foresight on his part, therefore, that he had so much Confederate money on hand when the great catastrophe occurred. He declared to a friend, that he had staked all his interest on the Confederate cause, and was resolved to sink or swim with it, and would do nothing having the least tendency to injure it. But the loss of property and money was not the only—not the *greatest* injury he sustained personally by the war.

Though naturally of a robust frame, and strong constitution, he was when the war commenced verging upon the grand limit of the earthly pilgrimage generally allotted to man. His three score years and ten were well nigh run out, and he was already labor-worn and wearied by the exertions of his active life. The superadded cares and anxieties brought on him by the great national convulsion pressed heavily on his spirits and energies—his physical powers gave way rapidly—his liver refused to perform its functions—he sickened with jaundice, and he *died*—*died* full of years and full of honors, and passed to that spirit world “where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.”

Thus I have endeavored to bring to view, some of the more prominent incidents of his life. It now remains for us to consider his character in the three aspects it presents—first as an individual—secondly as a lawyer and advocate—and thirdly as a patriot and statesman.

From what we have learned of his history, it must be apparent to all that he was a most grateful and dutiful son. This of itself afforded a strong guaranty of his future emi-



nence. Neither in my reading, nor in my acquaintance with men, have I met with an instance of an habitually undutiful child who ever rose to great and honorable distinction. I here solemnly declare that I would never confide in the friendship, or trust to the integrity of any man, if I knew that he had been an ungrateful and undutiful son.

Were I in search of a wife, I would solicit the hand of no lady of whom it could be truthfully said, that she was an undutiful daughter.

The Commandment to honor parents is "the first commandment with promise" and woe betide the child who is regardless of its divine authority. The curse of God will rest upon him through life and

"His grave!  
Religion will hallow it,  
Never! No never!"

Parents are not always blameless when their children are disobedient, but this, though it may slightly extenuate does neither justify nor excuse the hateful delinquency. It was the happy lot of Gov. MOREHEAD—as has been already shown—to have parents worthy, in every respect, of his reverence. He loved and honored them as long as they lived, and after their deaths he cherished their memories as sacred treasures of his soul. In childhood and youth he honored them by strict obedience—in the years of manhood, with assiduous devotion he ministered to their wants and alleviated all their trials and troubles. I have a distinct recollection of having once heard him speak with great emotion of the inexpressible joy he felt, when by his success in life he was enabled to visit his father and carry with him the means of relieving him from the pressure of his debts.

His brothers and sisters were most warmly and tenderly beloved by him. A sister dear thus writes to me concerning him: "My brother was ten years older than myself. He directed my course of reading, when I was quite young,

and I felt for him the reverence due a father, with the love I bore him as a brother. In the family circle he was always the same—never light or frivolous, and certainly possessed of the greatest equanimity of temper I have ever known. In fact I do not recollect ever to have seen him give way to his temper." Such a tribute from such a source is worth more than a diadem.

I do remember when young Abraham Morehead, that brightly promising scion of his father's race, came first to this Bar. He was endowed with genius, and imbued with literature far beyond the young men generally of that day. He was modest, diffident and sensitive, and recoiled from the rude contact of the busy world. His brother, of whom I have already said, that he was the leader of the Bar on this circuit, at that time by every means fraternal affection could suggest, sought to inspire him with becoming confidence in his own powers, and to induce him to

"Trust his young wings  
And mount the skies."

I heard the young brother's first speech at this Bar, and noticed the deep interest the eldest felt in its success. It was deemed a happy effort for a young man and it brought the flush and smile of joy to the cheeks of the Governor.

His love for that young brother—who was so soon to pass away from earth—was like the love of Jonathan for David "'Twas wonderful, passing the love of women."

The last expression I remember to have heard fall from his lips was one of warm affection for his *only surviving brother*.

As a husband and father he may well be presented as a model. I have already alluded to his bearing in these respects. It needs only to be added that to see him *at home* with his wife and children around him, to hear him converse and witness his sports with them—and observe his display of all the gentle amenities—methinks was quite

sufficient to remove all prejudice against him—all enmity to him—and satisfy any one of the purity of his heart, and that he was in the fullest sense of the term a true-born gentleman.

His prudential habits were admirable. He was a strict economist of time and of means. He eschewed procrastination, never postponing till to-morrow what could be done to-day. He was systematic, and never left to chance what order and forethought could accomplish. A motto he commended to young men was, "Upward and onward." Another was, "Never be satisfied with your attainments, while a worthy object attainable lies yet before you." These habits and mottoes suggest the causes of his own success in business. *He was a man of principle*, and was moved by the promptings of principle, rarely, if ever, by those of feeling, merely. He told me once that he was naturally prone, and *strongly prone*, to the habits of indolence, and that he labored from a sense of *duty* only. His friendships were cautiously formed, sincere, and abiding, acting in this respect upon the advice of Polonius to his son. He was free from envy, charitable in judging the motives of others, and just in acknowledging their merits. He never indulged in detraction. He was forgiving and magnanimous to his enemies, and rarely spoke of injuries and aspersions, which a majority of men resent with bitter recrimination.

His moral habits in all respects were pure and elevated. He was temperate in all things, as "those who strive for the mastery" should be, and those who gain it generally are. He used no profane language, nor those less than profane, but vulgar, expletives so frequently heard from the lips of gentlemen. He was social and genial in temper, delighting in the pleasures of refined society and abounding in anecdote. He was neat and tasteful in his dress, bland and dignified in his manners.

Of his religious faith, I know and can say but little. Many years ago he held a conversation with me in this village upon the grave subject of Religion. He then acknowledged its paramount claims to the attention of all men, and advised me as he said he would all others to whom he might address himself upon the subject, to seek it promptly in early life, lest the advance in years and the accumulations of business and its cares should render more difficult the surrender it demands. He was, I believe, a pretty regular attendant upon the ministrations of its sanctuaries and a liberal contributor to the support of the ministers of that branch of the church to which his wife and other members of his family belonged.

In the closing scene of his life, which occurred at the Bockbridge Alum Springs, in Virginia, he accepted with thankfulness the pious offices of the ministers of Christ who invoked for him on his dying pillow, the grace of regeneration and eternal life; and to the devoted wife of his bosom, he sent the consoling message that *he* trusted in the Saviour, in whom *she* trusted.

To enable us to estimate correctly his character as a lawyer and advocate, it is necessary to advert to the influences under which he commenced and ran his professional course. Greatness is a relative quality, and the term imports more or less according to circumstances. A man may be justly considered great, when viewed in reference to one period of time or one state of society, who would not be so considered when viewed in reference to another. Our judgment in the matter of greatness is often formed by comparison. The greatness of a discovery in art or science is determined by the usefulness of its results; the greatness of men, by the fruits of their lives, not only, but by these and other things.

Julius Cæsar is proven to have been great by his uniform success in accomplishing all the important ends he aimed



at, until he was slain. The first Napoleon was perhaps yet greater than he, though less successful on account of the greater obstacles he had to encounter. Wickliff, "the morning star of the Reformation," was in mental and moral qualities equal if not superior to Luther, yet he effected far less than Luther, owing to the deep darkness of the age in which he lived, and therefore ranks lower in the scale of greatness. In obscure communities, an individual may be distinguished for his talents, by contrast with the dull mediocrity that surrounds him. A great man in Beotia would have been rated as a common one in Athens.

Governor MOREHEAD came to the Bar in 1819, a little past the meridian of the very brightest era in the juridical annals of North Carolina.

The first quarter of the current century was illustrated in our State by a fraternity of lawyers of the highest order of natural gifts, and of profound learning in the science of law. Among the professional lights of the time alluded to were William Gaston and John Stanley, Edward Graham and Moses Mordecai, Gavin Hogg and Iredell, Strong and Toomer, Eckles and Strange—these were of the Eastern and Cape Fear circuits, while in the middle and Western circuits, we had Peter Brown, Seawell, George E. Badger, Wm. H. Haywood and Thomas P. Devereux. Duncan Cameron, William Norwood, Murphy and Nash, Yancey, Ruffin, Settle and Shepperd, Archibald Henderson, James Martin, Joseph Wilson, and David F. Caldwell, and others well worthy of association with those I have named, together constituting a resplendent galaxy, certainly not surpassed, if equalled by any, on this continent. The older class of the gentlemen referred to were, when Gov. MOREHEAD entered the profession, in their occident; "and the western horizon was in a blaze with their de-

scending glories;" the younger "were rising in the opposite quarter of the heavens, and quickly became lords of the ascendent." It is no small tribute to him to say, that at such a time, with the public mind familiar with such examples, he rose rapidly to eminence, and in his own circuit of practice became master of the first position.

Nor was he without formidable rivalry in his ascent to fame. Among the most prominent of his immediate contemporaries with whom he had to contend habitually, were, of those who preceded him at the Bar,—by a few years only,—Bartlett Yancey, James Martin, Thomas Settle and Augustine H. Shepperd: of those who came shortly after him, Governor Graham, Chief-justice Pearson, Hugh Waddell, Nathaniel Boyden, his brother Jas. T. Morehead, John F. Poindexter, Ralph Gorrell and George C. Mendenhall, all men of general ability, and of surpassing excellence in their respective *fortes*.

Yancey was a man of great personal dignity, of commanding influence throughout the State; and owing to the relation he sustained to the political parties of his day, with equal success in the courts and on the hustings

"Wielded at will, the fierce democratic."

Settle, who for more than twenty years graced the judicial ermine, was full of the fervor of genius, and with a strong hold on the popular regard and singular skill in the arts of advocacy, was able in all his courts to command a fine practice, and maintain a high position.

Shepperd, with a clear head, and as pure a heart as ever beat in human breast, was thoroughly proficient in the science of special pleading, the technicalities of which he brought to bear at times upon his adversaries to their great surprise and discomfiture.

Martin, like Settle, wore the judicial robes for many years, and sustained upon the bench the reputation for learning he acquired at the bar; ardent and zealous in the

causes of his clients, he was by these qualities and his professional attainments together, rendered at all times a strong antagonist in forensic disputations.

Mendenhall, by indefatigable industry and the strictest attention to the minutest circumstances in the preparation of his cases, and a most confident and bold manner of address to juries, with good attainments in the law, made himself formidable, won a large practice and a fine reputation.

These have all passed away, and deserve much more than this brief tribute. For the others I have named who still live, it were ungraceful to do more *now*, than to assign them a place as I have done in the honorable category presented.

In such times as he lived, with such knowledge and influences surrounding him, and with such *rivals* as he had—to have won such eminence and fame as he did win, *proves* JOHN M. MOREHEAD clearly entitled to be ranked in his profession among the *great*.

Nor are we at loss to discover the *elements* of his greatness. He had genius and talent both in high degree. His mental resources were ample and full. His powers of invention and talent for application were equally striking, equally ready.

He was not very accurately, not very extensively, learned in the law; he had however mastered its general principles, and without much acquaintance with the cases in Banc, his mind was so ordered, was of such a practical cast, that he was one of the best counselors in the State. No client was ever heard to complain of having been misled by his advice.

But it was as an advocate that he shone with peculiar splendor.

His presence, as I have already said, was imposing—his voice was exceedingly pleasant in its tones—his argumen-

tation was logical—his wit sparkling—his illustrations striking—and his flow of soul under the excitement of his causes, captivating to all hearts. He assailed with great force his adversaries' positions—and defended his own with consummate skill. He was always self-possessed—always courteous. He had the best control of his temper of any man I ever knew. It was in vain to attempt to get the advantage of him by exciting his anger.

He who did this, was sure to meet the fate of one who should be foolish enough to arouse a sleeping lion merely to hear him roar. The roar he might hear—but he would also be devoured. He was a man of strong will, and possessed great power of controlling others in and out of the courts. During the last ten years of his practice at the Bar, he defended in nearly all of the capital cases occurring in his circuit, and in such trials never lost but one verdict, and in that instance his client by his exertions was pardoned. *He never had a client capitally executed.*

His rhetoric would not have passed in the schools. His diction was not always grammatical. He seemed to care very little for these matters. Language with him, as with Mr. Calhoun, was the mere "scaffolding of thought." he used it for its strength, rather than for its beauties.

This carelessness was a defect in him much to be regretted. There is a moral benefit arising from the cultivation of accuracy and good taste in the use of language. Indeed good taste in regard to every thing we do, is very nearly akin to good morals.

His deportment to the junior members of the profession was in accordance with the general tenor of his life. He was always gracious in his demeanor toward them, and gave them every encouragement and assistance in his power in court and out of court. When in discharge of his duty, he defeated them in trials, he did it in such way as to make them feel that they had done quite handsomely



themselves—but it was the badness of the cause *alone* that led to their defeat. He had too, an amiable way of letting off little compliments to them that were exceedingly grateful to their wounded feelings under a sense of their failures.

It is just here at this point that my own heart, touched by the recollection, sends up its offering of gratitude to his memory, for soothing it on more than one occasion, when it was aching in silence under a feeling of the utter lack on my part of all that was necessary to secure success in life, and when it was *yearning* for some *kind encouraging* word.

He was a kind man, a good lawyer, and a *great advocate*.

Of his patriotism, I shall, in addition to what I have already said, only express the conviction of my own mind, that it was ardent, enlightened and true, and was controlled by principles which, had they been carried out in the general administration of our government, would have averted the calamities we now so sorely feel, and have conducted us as a people to the highest attainment of national felicity.

As a statesman, the policy he approved was enlarged and comprehensive. No merely sectional attachments ever obtained the mastery over his mind or heart; but partaking largely of the spirit and views of Mr. Clay, had he been placed in the national councils, he would have known no North, no South, no East, nor West, but would have consecrated all his faculties to the best service of his whole country, and would have left the impress of his genius and wisdom on the national as he has done on the institutions of his own State. North Carolina certainly owes him a large debt of gratitude, for what he did for her, as well when he was in the private walks of life as when charged with the duties of high official station. To him

more than to any other man, is she indebted for her existing works of Internal Improvement—her benevolent institutions, and the new impulse which the cause of education received when his star was at the zenith of its culmination. He was not only possessed of eminent ability to originate and direct *general plans*, but he was perfect master of details, and saved the State immense expenditures by his familiarity with mere matters of account, and with mechanical rules, and civil engineering. He was not to be deceived by laborers in any department, but understanding their business as well as they did, he exercised firmness, and incurred much enmity, by withstanding their exorbitant charges, and by exacting the utmost fidelity in the execution of their contracts. In this respect, as in some others, he has often reminded me of what is related of the great Napoleon.

It is believed by many, who did not know him well, that he was not possessed of much information derived from reading. As to his acquaintance with books, I am persuaded that there is a prevalent mistake in regard to it.

After I became acquainted with him, I had no reason to believe that he was much given to books, but he must have been, at some period of his life a close, thoughtful and studious general reader, for he was undoubtedly, far more than is usual with our profession in the State, familiar with belle-lettres, history, and the arts and sciences. When, or how, he acquired his knowledge of these things, I am unable to say; probably, however, while he was a youth, before he went to college, and when he was there, he laid up such treasures, by diligent improvement of his golden opportunities, as enabled him to fill his future dignities with the accomplishments that became them.

I have just alluded to his attainments in civil engineering. It is well known to the profession that he was so expert in the art of Practical Surveying as to give him

great advantage in trials of ejection, when questions of boundry were involved. It seemed to me that his information was accurate, when occasion called for its display, on all points of mechanics, as well as those of architecture, from the building of a chimney according to the plan of Count Rumford, to the construction of the Dome "which Angelo suspended in the heavens."

I remember, that at this place once, he discoursed to me, to my delight and edification, when I was in the first years of manhood, on the subject of Metaphysics, pointing out to me the progress of the science, stating and comparing the respective theories of Locke, Reid and Dugald Stewart, in regard to the powers or faculties of the human mind, and the peculiar office of the human understanding. In public and private discourse, he frequently made such allusions to history as showed him well acquainted with the grand events on which the rise, progress and fall of nations had turned.

With unpremeditated facility he could recite, with effect and point, from Milton, Shakespeare, Campbell, Burns and other classical and belle-lettres writers, and several of his professional brethren now present will probably never forget the electrical effect he produced in a trial at Stokes, when defending a beautiful woman, by a most apposite quotation from one of the poems of Savage.

He was no pedant, however, and indulged no vain ostentation. He had read

"Multum, sed non multa,"

Much, but not many *books*. This I deem both wise in him and fortunate for his country. He was a man of original ideas, and was for the most part controlled by his own and not by the views of others:

Had it been otherwise with him, he might have become, as too many are in the present day,

"Deep versed in books, but shallow in themselves."

He was a *working man*. The prominent trait of his character was practical vigor—but he had enough acquired information from books, enough of literary taste and respect for learning, to rescue his honored name from the list of the followers of Omar, and to place it in its rightful association with those of the cultivated, enlightened and liberal gentlemen and statesmen of the nineteenth century in the great christian Republic of America.

It is deeply to be regretted, that none of the fine displays of his talents as a lawyer and statesman remain to us in print. His fame would on this account be the less enduring, were it not that imposing edifices projected by his genius and reared under his superintendence, for the instruction, sustenance and comfort of the Deaf, Dumb, the Blind, and the stricken victims of Lunacy, stand gracefully erect and point high toward Heaven, to speak constantly his praise—while Engines of Steam, running with animating celerity from East to West, and throughout the State, will catch the strain and repeat it with joyous acclaim to future generations.

Young brethren of the Bar, Youth of Rockingham! a word to you, and I have done,—

“Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of Time!”



TRIBUTE  
TO  
THE GENIUS AND WORTH  
OF  
JOHN M. MOREHEAD.

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By WILL. LAFAYETTE SCOTT.

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Though "honor's voice" cannot "provoke the silent dust," nor the sincerest regard "soothe the dull cold ear of death;" yet it is a sad pleasure to one, who admires sterling genius and loves exalted worth, to sit down by the graves of the distinguished dead and there review the parts which they acted in the great drama of this life. Nor is it a pleasure only—it is a solid advantage to the intelligent mind and an improvement to the heart, that looketh up for purity and moral elevation. Thence is the gold of true and practical wisdom, that wisdom which illumines the darkened way of this world.

Unlike too many of the gifted, JOHN MOTLEY MOREHEAD lived to some purpose. He acted his part, in the drama of life, well, effectively, illustriously. Departing, like the comet sweeping through space, he hath left a long and blazing light behind him; dead and buried, his life is not obscured and lost—he yet liveth and speaketh. Everywhere and to everybody he was useful. By his splendid abilities and untiring energy, not only did he amass a handsome private fortune and place his name on high

among the distinguished statesmen and orators of the country; but he did more than any one else to advance the cause of general internal improvement and to promote the interest and welfare of his State. Not merely was he eminently great in the political world; but in the social circle and the learned coterie, he was graceful, genial, witty, brilliant and fascinating. The loss of such a man is, at all times, a calamity,—in this day of our tribulation, it is incalculable. Nor do his own neighbors alone mourn his demise: “All ye that were about him bemoan him; and all ye that knew his name, say, ‘How is the strong staff broken, and the beautiful rod!’”

Though Gov. MOREHEAD had abandoned the practice of the law many years before my appearance at the Bar, yet it was my fortune, while quite a youth, attending, out of childish curiosity, upon the sittings of the Superior Court of Guilford, to see him and to hear him. Of what he said, I have not now even a dim recollection; but the impression which he made upon my youthful mind by his power of thought, eloquence of utterance, and fascination of manner, time, like the stream its channel, hath only deepened. My mother had told me how charming are the angels of heaven, and my youthful imagination fancied, *he must be like them*. To me he was the most captivating talker I had ever heard. Of all the things dearest to a child is his little pet animal, and he delights to associate with it the object next most admired. Such was the spell he threw over my heart, that so soon as I returned home, my pet’s name was changed to MOREHEAD. Nor did that spell ever break. From that time my admiration of this great man commenced, and to his death it continued. He was in the golden prime of matured manhood, and at the noon of his professional fame. He had wrestled up to that eminence with such men as Murphey, Nash, Toomer, Yancey, Henderson, Dick, Wilson, Mendenhall and Settle, who

passed to eternity before him, and with Ruffin, Graham, Caldwell, Boyden, Gorrell, Gilmer, Kerr and Poindexter, who are yet ornaments of their profession and of their country. He was about two-score-and-two-years old; the weight of years had not stooped his shoulders; his hair was only slightly "besprent with rays and gleams of silver light;" his face was smooth-shaven; a mild lustre usually lit his blue eyes, but in a moment of animation, they sparkled like the brightest stars; his forehead was not high, yet massive; his nose slightly Roman; his chin prominent; his lips compressed; not unfrequently, when in deep thought, he indulged in a whispering whistle; and his dress was elegant, but never ostentatious. Such was he as I first saw him, nor can that image ever pass from my memory. The life-true picture, which was then daguerreotyped in my plastic young heart, was taken from the whole appearance of the man in repose and in action. Thenceforward, it has been to me the subject of profound study; but never have I seen, in the walks of life, nor has my imagination conceived, a man so all-gifted as he was. His

" \* \* \* mind was an essence, compounded with art  
From the finest and best of all other men's powers."

As a lawyer, he was pre-eminently great. That learned jurist, Judge Caldwell, remarked to me shortly after his death was announced, that "Gov. MOREHEAD knew the fundamental principles of the law by intuition, and, as an advocate, he had no equal." The mouth of a wide and common tradition, too, says, he spoke magnetically. He knew all the avenues to the understanding and the passions, and for home-thrusts, heart-thrusts, he was famed above any man of his times. "Of human feelings," he was, like the immortal Sheridan, "the unbounded lord." As was sung of this Irish orator, he

" \* \* \* ruled, like a wizard, the world of the heart,  
And could call up its sunshine, or bring down its showers,"

He enshrined the richest and most solid thoughts in the most transparent and powerful language. His reasoning was rapid, cogent, vehement, overpowering. Hearing him, at times, suggested the ancient story of Vulcan forging and Jupiter hurling thunderbolts. Sometimes, he examined a witness with the sweetness and witchery of one suing for the love of a beautiful damsel, and seldom did he fail to win so upon the witness as to make him a better friend of his client than of his adversary; and, at other times and when this plan failed, which was infrequent, he would press the witness with the impetuosity and terrible-ness of the driving storm. Scanning the man, he could, in a trice, tell whether he could be lured or driven, and he was governed, in the course of his examination, by this discovery. Before the Court, his persuasive argument was almost invincible—before the jury his earnest, impassioned, fervid eloquence was omnipotent. He forgot himself, forgot display, thought only of his cause—his client—success. Though he was not always successful, a client seldom suffered in his hands—he could, in every thing, make “the worse appear the better reason.” He tried an action of ejectment with matchless ability and skill; but he was most distinguished as a criminal practitioner. He never had a client to pay the forfeiture of his life upon the gallows, though he appeared in the trial of, perhaps, every capital felony, on his judicial circuit, for a number of years before he retired from the practice of the law. To say this is to pronounce the highest panegyric upon his ability, ingenuity, skill and eloquence. Of few besides the wizard-lipped Clay and himself, even among the ablest and fullest practitioners, can thus much be truly said.

Of him as a public man, all, even the youngest, know much. Nor will it be profitless for young men of ambition, who have entered, or intend to enter, his profession, to consider, that he consented to represent his people *only*



*three times* in the lower house of our General Assembly during the long period in which he practised law—twenty-one years. His profession absorbed all his time and enlisted all his great powers of intellect. Thus he worked his way easily and early to the proudest distinction in the abstrusest science known to man. When he entered politics, he was not as thoroughly versed in its history in our government as were many of fewer years than himself. But he knew how to study; he was apt to learn; he bent his whole strength and energy to its successful prosecution; and, in an inconceivably short time, he had fully mastered it. His gubernatorial contest, in the summer of 1840, with Gen. Saunders, one of the giants of the State, is without a parallel in canvassing in North Carolina. Both were Titans; both were in the vigor of life; both were exceeding ambitious; MOREHEAD was no politician; Saunders was a shrewd, learned and dexterous one; politics was running higher in the State than ever before or since; never was a contest involved in more uncertainty; large and eager crowds met them everywhere they went, and they traversed the State from the blue waves to the blue mountains; and fired by the excitement of the occasion and the hope of success, they struggled and battled with the power, the fervor and the indomitableness of the giants of the olden time. From that intellectual gladiature, he came out successful, triumphantly so, both in debating and gaining votes. Never was the banner of any cause borne more proudly and gloriously, than was that of Whiggery in that year and in that canvass and by that man!

On entering upon the duties of the Executive office, as in the practice of his profession, he devoted his undivided energies and talents to the interest and welfare of the State. From that hour he began to erect monuments of State-pride, which are more durable than those of marble or of brass. Every engine which is daily treading its

iron-pathway in the borders of the State, whistles and thunders his zeal, his activity, his patriotism and his glory, exerted and achieved in the cause of internal improvement. Every common school-house, which dots our hills and valleys, points to him as the ardent friend of general education. The Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind mourns not a little the loss of its kindest benefactor. The superb building which stands near the great central road and which is the home of impaired and lost minds, silently but impressively proclaims how he gloried in that benevolence which immortalized a Howard, a Dix, an Everett, a Dobbin, and other great names in history!

His second canvass was with the gifted and eloquent Louis D. Henry, whose political armor was not less highly burnished than that of any public man of the State. Their discussion in Cumberland is yet fresh in the memories of all who heard it. Henry opened the debate. He was flushed with the highest hopes. He was on his native heath and surrounded by the friends of his youth and earlier manhood. Consciousness of this made him strong and eager for the contest and more unsparingly severe in his attacks upon the public life of his competitor. He charged him with being largely interested in the Banks and with being heavily indebted to them. Seeing, as he advanced in his brilliant and terrific argument, the brightening and exulting countenances of his own friends and the down-sinking and despairing faces of his competitor's, he rose higher and higher, and roused up more and more, until he towered imperially and grandly in the pride and power of his invective, his denunciation and his eloquence. He appeared a young god in the might and majesty of his extraordinary intellectual effort. When Gov. MOREHEAD arose, his friends could scarcely hold up their heads. They felt whipped—completely demolished. None could see any way of escape for him from the deplorable predicament in

which Henry had left him. He, however, was as calm as a summer day—perfectly self-possessed. Embarrassment had never entered his mind. He saw his way clearly—his whole soul was stirred in thought but not in excitement—and his triumph glittered and glowed in his imagination. He reviewed the history of the Banks; spoke, at length, of the independence of one who was so fortunate as to be largely interested in them; depicted the horrible and woe-ful condition of one so vastly indebted to them as he was represented to be by his competitor; as he advanced and culminated in drawing this dreadful picture, his friends, believing *that* his condition, were more deeply depressed and looked like they desired to slink away to hiding places—but when he reached the climax of his friends' despair and his enemies' joy, seeming to rise higher than was his wont, pausing,—it was an awful pause—and casting his eyes around upon his whole audience, he proudly—as none but he could—and defiantly exclaimed: "*I have not a single dollar's interest in the Banks—I owe them not one copper cent!!*" What a change in the crowd! His friends looked as joyously as a mother to whom a lost babe has been restored unharmed; and his enemies like the lords at the banquet of Timon of Athens, when, he crying out: "Uncover dogs, and lap!" they, obeying orders, uncovered the dishes and found them full of warm water! He then carried every thing before him. Henry and his friends never rallied, nor did he over that discussion during the campaign. MOREHEAD was re-elected.

As a stump-orator, Gov. MOREHEAD perhaps never had an equal. Coleridge has said: "what comes from the heart goes to the heart." That was his secret of success—he spoke from the heart, felt what he said, reached the hearts of those who heard him and made them feel as he did. I have seen him take a crowd, wearied and exhausted by other speakers, and in five minutes have them scream-

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yield him much, if any, income; but he did it because of his great desire to spread female education, refine society and bless and elevate mankind. Nothing, neither the smallness of numbers, the inconsiderableness of the income, nor flourishing competition, could have induced him to give it up so long as he lived. During the very last year of the war, two causes stopped it: The difficulty of procuring provisions with the depreciated Confederate currency, and the demand of his buildings for a General Hospital for the sick and wounded soldiery. To thousands of persons there are, around and about Edgeworth, endearing and hallowed associations and memories, which make them hope, that ere long its doors will be opened and the angel forms of sweet girls again line its walks and enliven its halls!

No matter how correctly a person may conduct his walk in this life, the shafts of envenomed defamation will be, often sneakingly and sometimes openly, directed against him. 'Twas so in the highest type of man that ever trod the earth. Nor is it, therefore, wonderful, that it should be so in the case of frail mortals. Gov. MOREHEAD, with all his moral elevation of character and greatness of intellect, did not escape. Ever and anon it was whispered, that he was *selfish*. That was the principal charge against him in his autumn days—*selfishness*! Ay, he was selfish—not meanly, sordidly and basely so—but eminently and nobly selfish! No man is worth a groat, who is totally destitute of this motive-power. Whoever is *selfless*, cares nothing for the interests of others; whoever is *selfless*, despising the interests of others, would willingly see society demoralized and government demolished. In every man, there should be the element of *selfishness*; and to balance the man properly there should enter into his character with it the principles of generosity, magnanimity, mercy, justice and charity. Such was Gov. MOREHEAD's character—such was his selfishness.

While he made a mere pittance out of the large amount of capital invested in Edgeworth and its lovely grounds, the citizens of this town and county, and even of adjoining counties and States, were largely benefited—merchants and farmers at home and patrons abroad, the merchant and farmer in selling merchandize and produce, and the latter in receiving back their daughters thoroughly and elegantly educated. In this wasn't he selfish?—nobly and eminently so in carrying on such an unpaying institution for upwards of thirty years?

He, too, dignified the office of Justice of the Peace for several years in taking upon himself its irksome duties and heavy responsibilities—for its responsibilities are weighty when properly and fully appreciated—and acted for a time as Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter-Sessions for Guilford. Here, he was exceedingly selfish, giving his ability, time and learned acquirements to the county by presiding in court four weeks in the year, and deciding questions of law, and despatching business with the accuracy and promptness of a profound, patient and working Judge. Wasn't he selfish—eminently and nobly selfish?

As we have stated before, he was the pioneer in this section of North Carolina in rearing factories and in driving them. All know, that the factories in this part of the State, in consequence of being unable to compete with those of Lowell and other cities and States North, never made much, if any money, before the war. Still, he carried his on, and even while he was expiring in the mountains of his native State, his spindles and his looms were still running. This was selfish, indeed!—striving, mid loss and adversity, to compete with the splendored mills of the North! Would that we had thousands of his like! Just such selfishness would make our lands, in this State, blossom as the rose.

Upon the announcement of his name as a candidate for the Senate, or House of Commons, some petty county politician would start the story, that Gov. MOREHEAD had some particular interest to subserve, otherwise he would not be before the people; and that the people understood this and would defeat him. He never canvassed fully—his business would not permit, nor was it needful. He would sometimes speak at three or four places in the county, and when the election passed, notwithstanding these slanders and he could not visit all parts of the county, he was the highest in the field. Yes, he is charged with being selfish in representing his people,—for what? Not for the honor of the position, he had that and higher honors; not to make reputation, his name was “a household word;” he had lived past all this! He had a purpose in going to the General Assembly—would that all had!—and his purpose was patriotic, good, noble! He helped push through the charters for several of our public roads; not only aided in having them passed, but traversed our State from one end to the other, along the line of the roads, making his ablest and most eloquent speeches to get up the stock necessary to be taken to secure the charters; while the rebellion was progressing, he seized an opportunity, which offered, to accomplish the connection between Danville and this place; and at the very last meeting of the Stockholders of the North Carolina Railroad Company, he put forth his comprehensive and grand scheme for the consolidation and extension of some of the roads of the State. Selfish in all this? Yes, eminently and nobly so? Didn't all of us want the Danville connection? Is it not a benefit to all of us? Has it not enhanced our real estate and afforded us greater traveling and marketing facilities? Could it be of any more advantage to him? Did he not benefit thousands more than himself? Was it not a patriotic State work, greatly needed and desired—long



wished for? Was not the Central road a great State desideratum? Could we have done without it? Was it not important to push the iron-railway from Goldsborough to the sea-shore? Do you call this selfish? If so, may Heaven raise up other intellectual giants to push forward general internal improvements, until such selfishness checkers our whole territory with railways, and every nook and corner of the State are aroused and energized by the tread and neigh of the mighty iron-horse! Ah! but we are told, he planted the foundation of a city at the terminus of the Atlantic road, and that was the reason he was so anxious for it! Suppose he did—all we regret is that it is not now as populous as New Orleans or New York. Should his efforts already expended there be the means of building up and making Morehead City large, opulent and flourishing, we should bless his name and honor his memory. It would, like most he did, benefit and bless others more than it did him or can his descendants. O, for more such selfishness!

The first and only public position which Gov. MOREHEAD ever filled, of a national character, was that of a delegate in the Peace Conference, that assembled in the City of Washington early in 1861. He went there an ardent and devoted friend of the Federal Union. He went there hopefully—he went there to labor and to counsel for the accomplishment of the great end in view. He bent all of his energies; exerted all of his skill and persuasion; worked continuously and untiringly for a month, to stay the tide of blood and woe, which, all feared, was setting in rapidly and irresistably. But the patriotism which called that august body together, was destined to disappointment. Bad ambitions determined, that the dogs of war should be let slip. On his return, the citizens of Guilford assembled in the court-room to hear his account of the doings of the Conference. None, who heard it, will ever forget his

speech. All had escaped the Pandora-box except hope. He still hoped, but it was scarcely more than the hope of an expiring man. His usually bright face wore an expression of the deepest gloom.\* He had loved the Union long, he had loved it well, and to think of its disruption was heart-rending to such a patriot and statesman. His words were full of pathos and tenderness, and he counseled a wise and firm moderation and an implicit trust in Him, who ruleth among the kingdoms, empires and republics of the earth. That was the last time he talked for the Union, a cause in behalf of which the utterances of his tongue had been more eloquent than on all other subjects to which he had ever spoken.

In the incipency of the Southern government, he was chosen by the Legislature of the State to represent this Congressional district in the Provisional Congress. He served for a short time in that body, which soon gave place to what was called the Permanent Congress. He never filled another office during the rebellion, nor since. Here his public life closed. Like a number of other illustrious names which might be mentioned, he was not of that school of politicians who were called into places of trust and responsibility by the Chief of the Confederacy. Nor did that "lost cause" have the benefit of his genius and ability to keep it from sinking, as it has, irretrievably and forever.

Gov. MOREHEAD was now passing through the mellow and beautiful Indian summer of his life—that period of man's existence when he ceases to chase the phantoms of fickle fame and deceitful hope, and, though he looks into the future, it is less at things temporal than things eternal—that season when the mind turns back fondly and often to the sweet days of childhood, and reviews carefully and minutely the struggles, trials, perils, defeats and triumphs of ripe and stalwart manhood. Second-childhood, into which the aged pass long before the strength and brilliance

of the intellect are weakened or dimmed, is more blissful than first. Ignorance as well as innocence constitutes, to a considerable degree, the bliss of the first; but the happiness of the second is heightened by the fruits of large experience and chastened wisdom. The old man has felt the mildness of the child's spring-time, the heat and excitement of the young man's summer, and the sharp frosts and pinching blasts of the aged's autumn; three score winters have whitened his locks and they have whitened his heart as well; if he never inclined to it before, his mind then acquires a fondness for reflection and philosophizing—all these prepare him, at that time of life, to enjoy more intensely his past, which comes to him with the softness, loveliness and witchery of pleasant dreams.

"Those days, so serene and so charming,  
Awaken a dreamy delight—  
A tremulous, tearful enjoyment,  
Like soft strains of music at night;

We know they are fading and fleeting,  
That quickly, too quickly, they'll end,  
And we watch them with a yearning affection,  
As at parting we watch a dear friend."

He was always social and affable; but his sociability and affableness increased very much in his latter days. He was much more at home than hitherto, and had more leisure to mingle with his neighbors and friends. We remember vividly and with exquisite pleasure the evenings which he was wont to spend down town in the summer and autumn of 1865 and in the spring and summer of 1866. Those were halcyonian evenings! He was always fond of conversation and was gifted with the most brilliant conversational powers. His conversations on these evenings, though frequently on public matters, the status of the South and the prospects ahead of us, showed that his mind luxuriated in recurring to the remote past, his school-boy, professional and public days. Of these, he was full of anecdotes, amusing and instructive; narrative, thrilling and touching; and information, historic and philosophic.

Of pleasant evenings, when he was on the street, his friends would gather around him where he was seated in the cool shade and there sit and listen, with rapt attention, for hours, and sometimes until deep twilight, at his descriptions of cases in which he had appeared, his account of public men and political scenes in which he was a prominent actor, his flashes of wit and good humor, his schemes for repairing the ruined fortunes of the State and of individuals, and his trust in Providence, that all things would work together for our common weal. He touched a variety of topics and never without illumining each. The conversations of the intellectual and cultivated, who are in the "sear and yellow leaf" of life, are always highly edifying. A shrewd observer and profound thinker, indeed any one, learns more from such a source than from books, more that is practical. *They are living books.* They may not always be strictly accurate in their learning; but the same may be said, not infrequently, of authors with their libraries before them. In listening to the wise, and gifted, and talented, you have the charm of the voice, the lustre of the eye, and a kindling, stirring eloquence and fervor, which never can be transferred to the pages of an author, no matter how much he may transfuse himself into his writings.

When the spring and summer come again, his fine, venerable form will be missed in our streets and his chair vacant in our social gatherings. His place, alas, can never be filled—we shall "never look upon his like again" in the circle of our friends. "A really great man," says the Hon. Henry W. Hilliard, "is the grandest object this world ever exhibits. The heavens in their magnificence—the ocean in its sublime immensity—mountains standing firm upon their granite foundations, all are less imposing than a living man in the possession of his highest faculties. Demosthenes urging the Athenians to march against Phillip, in-



terests us more than all Greece. Hannibal scaling the Alps with his victorious legions, is a sublimer object than the Alps themselves. Marius seated upon the ruins of Carthage, makes us forget the fall of an empire in contemplating the fortunes of a man. Nelson upon the deck of the Victory, with the star glittering upon his breast, is a grander sight than the two hostile fleets. Napoleon at Waterloo, riding to the brow of the hill at the head of the Imperial Guard when they were to make their last charge upon the British lines, is an object of higher interest than all the stern array of battle beside. Lord Chatham sinking in the House of Lords, is the noblest object in the British empire; and Washington, crossing the Delaware at night, amid the crashing ice, fixes our attention in the midst of the dread magnificence of the winter scene, and we look upon him as we would upon an avenging archangel going forth to smite the invading army." Such appeared Gov. MOREHEAD in the grand intellectual contest in the House of Commons of this State at the session of 1858-'9, when, the ablest and most eloquent men in that body for five days having attacked his plans of internal improvement and levelled their arguments, invective, ridicule and denunciation against him so boldly and unmercifully that all thought him overwhelmed, he arose and for three days vindicated his plans and himself in the most powerful, withering, masterly, eloquent and triumphant argument, that ever fell from mortal lips. Nor was he less grand in the private walks of life. Unlike many of the distinguished, nearness did not diminish the stature of his greatness.

On retiring from the Presidency of the North Carolina Railroad Company, in his farewell address to the Stockholders at this place, July 12th, 1855, he said in conclusion—words so thrilling I never have forgotten them—

*"Living, I have spent five years of the best portion of my life in the service of the North Carolina Railroad,—dying, my sincerest prayers will be offered up for its prosperity and its success—dead, I wish to be buried along side of it in the bosom of my own beloved Carolina!"* That wish is realized. He now sleepeth in the bosom of his own Carolina and beneath the sound of every engine which treads majestically the iron-railway that runs near his grave. Though he is now no more to be seen among us, there stand all around us his monuments of renown, which are calculated to perpetuate his genius and worth, to inspire the timid, to energize the weak, to inspirit the dejected, and to enthuse the cold and indifferent with a devoted and undying patriotism and a lofty State pride!

SOCIAL REMINISCENCES  
OF  
JOHN M. MOREHEAD.

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By MRS. MARY BAYARD CLARKE.

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"A WOMAN reading after a man," says some writer, "like a gleaner following in the wake of a reaper, will gather many a full ear from a field which he has reaped; and the grains of knowledge which she will thus pick up are often those which are most useful and desirable." That it is sometimes the same when she writes after one, is the only excuse that can be offered to the reader for laying before him these gleanings from the field reaped by the Hon. John Kerr, in his oration before the Bar of Rockingham county, on the life and character of the Hon. JOHN M. MOREHEAD. But, if these social reminiscences of him shall garner one golden grain that might otherwise have been lost, they will not be uninteresting to the people of North Carolina.

"I would not take ten dollars for that grip of the hand on the breast of his coat," said one of his old friends to Gov. MOREHEAD's daughter, when he first saw the portrait of her father by Mr. William Garle Brown, who, with true artistic taste, had caught the Governor in one of his favourite positions and transferred a life-like portrait of him to his canvass. And it may be the same with others, who, in this pen and ink sketch, will be pleased to find trifling anecdotes and incidents, as inappropriate in a finished oration like Mr. Kerr's, as the grip on the coat in

Mr. Brown's picture would have been had he sought to portray Gov. MOREHEAD addressing an audience, or taking the oath of office, instead of representing him as he appeared in every-day life to his family and friends.

Mr. Kerr has shown the lawyer, the statesman, the financier, and the railroad prince; but there is another, and to those who venerate his memory as that of a friend, a brighter side to Gov. MOREHEAD's character. Though eminently genial and pleasant in his social intercourse with all, there was a modesty and reticence about him, that concealed from all but his intimate friends the almost womanly delicacy and tenderness of his disposition; qualities only displayed in that inner life of the affections of which mere acquaintances caught but a passing reflection. A coarse or indelicate expression never fell from his lips, and, with all that knowledge of human nature which generally characterizes the successful business man, he was yet singularly free from suspicion of evil, and seemed to guard instinctively against fraud and dishonesty, and not from any fear of meeting with deceit in the person with whom he was dealing. Decision was a prominent trait of his character, he saw his way at a glance, and promptly and perseveringly pursued it until he attained his end. But few of those who looked on him only as the shrewd financier and eminently practical man of business, who by his activity, or "masterly inactivity," had built up a splendid fortune, ever thought of him as the polished scholar whose taste in the fine arts was as elegant as it was correct.

He was always opposed to sending Southern girls to be educated in Northern schools, and, that he might keep his daughters at home, founded the Edgeworth Seminary. He spared no expense on it; the buildings and all appointments were in the best and most appropriate style; the grounds cultivated and adorned, and a corps of the best teachers always employed. It was a benefit to the State, and so



flourishing that it was generally thought to be one of his usual "paying speculations ;" but this was not so, he never received even a fair interest on the money he invested in the buildings, and died a poorer, rather than a richer man, from what he expended on Edgeworth. But he was not disappointed ; he derived all that he had expected from it ; it was one of his luxuries, for it was thus that he indulged his tastes and enjoyed his money. He spent his money as he made it, profusely yet wisely, and seemed equally to enjoy the making and the spending. He was magnificent in all his views, yet always practical. If he built a chicken coop, it was a chicken palace, and an ornament to his grounds ; but it was also the best possible arrangement for securing the ends for which it was intended. He never sacrificed the useful to the ornamental, but so judiciously combined the two, that it was hard to suggest an improvement in anything which he had carefully considered and planned.

He had a great love of beauty and elegance, was very fond of pictures and architecture, had a decided taste for drawing, and frequently regretted he could not sketch from nature. Edgeworth was always supplied with the very best teachers of painting as an accomplishment, as well as with the best instructors of music, of which he was passionately fond. A concert by the teachers of the school, assisted by the pupils, was one of his most agreeable relaxations, for he not only enjoyed the pleasure of listening to the music, but had the satisfaction of feeling that he had been instrumental in diffusing a knowledge of this delightful science among the young people of his State, which, to a mind like his, was quite as great a gratification. When a young man, he played well on the flute himself ; but the best years of his life, as well as his latter days, were so given up to business, that few but the friends of his youth were aware of the correct taste for the fine

arts which he concealed under a jocosely affected ignorance of such matters.

On one occasion, when Mr. Badger was admiring an oil painting executed by one of his daughters, Mrs. Morehead, who had a quiet wife-like pride in her husband, remarked, as though fully accounting for its excellence, "Letitia gets her taste for painting from her father." "Ah, that's always the way with you wives," replied Mr. Badger: "Your children are but looking glasses in which you imagine that you see your husbands reflected. I don't believe a word of it; Morehead knows no more about painting than I do; he can tell when a picture pleases him, perhaps, just as he can tell whether he has had a good dinner, but he knows no more about painting one, than he does about cooking the other;" then turning to Governor MOREHEAD, he said, "am I not right, Governor, does not your daughter get her talent from her mother?" "Certainly she does," was the prompt reply, and before Mrs. Morehead could utter a disclaimer, he continued, "and she gets from her mother also, that patience and perseverance, to cultivate a talent, without which the possession of it is useless."

Though by no means the brilliant conversationalist that Mr. Badger was, Governor MOREHEAD had a pleasant wit, and told a story very effectively. He had a fund of anecdote, and could toss back a repartee or a joke so as to keep a dinner table alive with merriment. His wit was pre-eminently genial, although he had a keen sense of the ridiculous, he never allowed himself to ridicule any one, and could with unconscious power take off a character without descending into the mimic. Even in his political speeches, he seemed more desirous of winning the good opinion of his hearers to himself, than of exciting their animosity against his opponent, whom he treated as an antagonist in a fencing match, to be carefully guarded

against, and skilfully parried, and not as an enemy to be mortally wounded. His encounters were those of the tilt-yard rather than the battle field, and while he bore himself gallantly, he sought rather to disarm than to wound, to defeat than to destroy. He carried into the arena of politics the courtesey of the Bar, and treated his opponent as he did the opposing counsel in a law case.

His first canvass of the State was at a time of unusual political bitterness, which some times affected the social cordiality that would otherwise have existed between persons well suited for intimacy. There was not a particle of this in Gov. MOREHEAD. He once with great gravity, advised the daughter of a staunch Whig, "never to marry a Democrat on any consideration whatever,"—and then with a merry twinkle in his eye added, "unless he is a very clever fellow indeed, in which case, my dear, never let him pass." The lady married a Democrat, and some years after was playfully rallied by Governor Swain, at a Chapel Hill commencement ball, for deserting the ranks of the Whig party and going over to the enemy. Turning to Gov. MOREHEAD, who was present, the lady replied, "I did so, Governor, by the express advice of this great Whig champion."

"Ah, how's that, Governor MOREHEAD? Come into court, Sir, and answer to the charge of giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

Gov. MOREHEAD replied, that he could not contradict a lady, but he really had no recollection of her having consulted him in her love affairs. She related the charge he had given her, and appealed to Governor Swain to know if she had not obeyed it.

"The court is against you, Sir," replied Governor Swain, "and will hear your defence. What is it?"

"That in politics, as in religion, we should always select our very best, most intellectual and highly cultivated men

and women, as missionaries to convert the heathen ; and I wish every young Democrat had a good Whig wife, bent on converting her husband from his political errors."

The heartiness and magnanimity with which he would forgive, or ignore all personal attacks made on him in the heat of political strife, was another characteristic of Gov. MOREHEAD ; he not only felt no animosity himself, but overlooked it in other. When Col. John H. Wheeler was elected Treasurer, a question of law arose as to the validity of the bond he had given, and Governor MOREHEAD refused to accept it until the question was decided. As Col. Wheeler was a Democrat, his party immediately asserted that there would have been no trouble had he been a Whig, and bitterly assailed this action of the Governor, who, however, stood firm, and had the matter brought before the Supreme Court, which decided in his favor. Among those who had been most active against Gov. MOREHEAD was Colonel Duncan K. McRae, who no sooner heard the decision of the court, than with an impetuosity characteristic of him, he walked straight to the Governor's office, and with the frankness of a true gentle man and a generosity equally characteristic, held out his hand and said ;

" Governor, I have come to apologize for my remarks respecting the course you have pursued with regard to the Treasurer's bond. I see now that you were right, and regret that in the heat of the moment I imputed your conduct to political motives only ; I beg leave, therefore, to retract what I said, and hope you will accept my apology and my hand."

Taking his offered hand in the spirit in which it was extended, Governor MOREHEAD replied :

" Your words gave me no offence, Mr. McRae, for I knew they were uttered under a misapprehension of my motive ; but your retraction of them gives me great plea-



sure, for it shows that the misapprehension on your part is removed. You are a younger man than I am, and have not yet learned that in politics, as in every thing else, it is best always to keep cool and take things easy."

Perhaps no man was ever more misunderstood by his political opponents, but every year more and more reveals the wisdom of his plans for the good of his State, and shows that they were not dictated by the selfish policy sometimes imputed to him. Those who cried out against the terminus of the Atlantic road being at Morehead City, and asserted that it was carried there because of the large bodies of land owned by Gov. MOREHEAD at that point, did not look far enough back, or they would have seen that he owned the land because he was convinced that the railroad should, and eventually would, be run to that point, and did not run it there because he had first purchased these lands. An old sea-captain who lived in Beaufort, and whose property would have been greatly enhanced in value had the road run to that point, remarked, when some one regretted that it did not do so :

"Gov. MOREHEAD was striking for the best anchorage, and he hit it as true as if he had been bringing a vessel into this harbor for twenty years. Morehead City is the point for the terminus; vessels of any draught can lie right up at the wharf there, and they cant anywhere in Beaufort."

He never appeared to better advantage than in his own house. Hospitality was an instinct with him, and he would frequently bring guests in unexpectedly on his wife when she fancied her dinner was not worthy of them; but he always maintained that she never had a poor dinner, and when this did not satisfy her house-keeping pride, would add, "Well, Old Lady, the poorer your dinner is, the warmer let your welcome be;" and the guests at Bland-

wood were thus ever made to feel that they gave as much pleasure as they received.

Mr. Kerr speaks of Governor MOREHEAD's love for his younger brother, Mr. Abraham Morehead, who died young, but not before he had given promise of being one of North Carolina's brightest stars. He was a classmate in college of Henry W. Miller, Esq., who was much attached to him, and frequently spoke of his bright genius: he was the author of several really fine poems; among others "The Hills of Dan," and "The Mississippi a Verisimilitude," which last has received high praise from more than one literary critic. Bishop Polk admired it greatly, and gave it to General Albert Sidney Johnston, shortly after its publication, as a specimen of North Carolina poetry. Some years after, General, then Col. Johnson of the Second United States Cavalry, spending an evening with a North Carolina lady, regretted that in his many wanderings he had unfortunately lost this poem. She handed him a copy of "Wood Notes," and pointing it out, requested him to read it aloud, which he did, to the admiration of all present. Col. John Wilcox, a brother of Gen. Cadmus Wilcox, and a North Carolinian by birth, was present, and taking the book from General Johnson's hand, said, "Do you mean to tell me that this was written by a brother of that man of iron, that personification of railroads, JOHN M. MOREHEAD of North Carolina?"

"If you had seen "that man of iron," as you term him, Col. Wilcox, when I did, it would not surprise you to hear that he had written it himself," replied General Johnson. "I travelled with him once through the mountains of Virginia, and was struck with his enthusiastic admiration of the scenery, and the vivid descriptions which he gave of the beauties of that in Western North Carolina, and was not surprised when I discovered that he was the brother of the man who wrote the poem that I had admired so much."

This love of the beauties of nature characterized Gov. MOREHEAD to the day of his death. On being removed a short time before he died to a more comfortable room than that which he then occupied, he said to his physician, "Ah Doctor, I have looked for the last time on that beautiful blue mountain."

He retained the vigor and clearness of his mind to the last. A few days before his death, Mr. Wm. Southerlin, of Danville, Virginia, and some other gentlemen, went in to see him, and he conversed with such clearness on State improvements, and showed such a depth and intimacy of knowledge, and such a grasp of mind, that they were utterly astonished, and Mr. Southerlin remarked, after leaving the room, "My God! is it possible, he can be in a dying condition! he has laid out fifty years work for us in this conversation alone."

Americans have been accused, and perhaps justly, of an undue worship of "the Almighty Dollar;" but it should be remembered, that money is the one thing most needful for advancement in a country where hereditary rank is not recognized. In England the younger son of a peer of the realm stands a far better chance of getting a snug place in the gift of the government, than the son of a wealthy banker does. Such a fortune as that of the Roth's child's will give its possessor weight anywhere, but a much less one, in a country where Wall street merchants are a political power, and money the lever which takes the place of rank, will enable him to occupy the same relative position to that held by the great banker. This has made the business men of America socially and intellectually superior to those of any other country. In England business men have their specialities and excel in them, but taken out of them are like an engine off the track; they run smoothly and swiftly in their appointed grooves, but out of them they jolt, jar and bungle. When they have acquired

fortunes, or a competency, they retire from business, often in the prime of life, and live on their money. With us, on the contrary, the business man generally dies in harness; he is at home among politicians and statesmen, for they were but what he is, and are but what he may become; he is at ease with the *savant*, and though his inferior in the knowledge pertaining to his speciality, can listen with pleasure to, and derive information from, his conversation; the technicalities of science may be, and perhaps are, unknown to him, but he is not oppressed by his ignorance, and though not a learned, is an intelligent listener. The well-educated business gentlemen, neither undervalues, nor overvalues money; he regards it as a powerful lever in skilful hands, which become almost impotent in unskilful ones; it is to him the stream which may turn the machinery of a factory, or flow idly between its banks, beautifying the landscape perhaps, and deepening the verdure of the grass upon its banks, but adding nothing to the prosperity of the country. He will cheerfully bestow thousands in charity, or for the advancement of the arts and sciences, but he will not suffer himself to be defrauded of a dollar, or knowingly permit the waste of a shilling. Though cautious and careful in his money transactions, he may be warm in his friendships, and tender in his affections; he exacts nothing from others that he is not willing to render in return, and the same qualities which make him successful in business, make him also a careful and provident father, watchful for the present comfort and future well-being of his children. Such a man was the Hon. JOHN M. MOREHEAD, the financier and railroad prince of North Carolina. At the present day, when the shattered and poverty, stricken condition of our country imperatively calls on our young men to devote the whole energies of their mind and body to eminently practical pursuits, the contemplation of his character in all its aspects cannot but



be advantageous to them, by impressing on their minds the conviction that the man who is truly practical, and working with all his energies for the material welfare of himself, his family, and his State, may yet shine in the home and social circle as the elegant and accomplished gentleman. The necessity of earning their bread by the sweat of the brow at an age when under happier auspices they would still be at their studies, may prevent their becoming finished belle-lettre scholars, but it need not prevent their acquiring a general knowledge of literature, and becoming polished gentleman. Mr. Kerr has given them a portrait of the lawyer, the politician, and the railroad prince; this *carte-de-visite* likeness represents him as he appeared to his friends in the bosom of his family, and if those who thus knew him pronounce it a correct likeness, let those who did not, look first to one picture, and then to the other, before forming an opinion of him as a man.

## TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA,  
DIALECTIC HALL, September 21st, 1866.

The Dialectic Society has lost one of its most distinguished and useful ornaments, by the death of the Hon. JOHN M. MOREHEAD, who departed this life on the 27th ultimo, in the seventy-first year of his age.

Mr. MOREHEAD was a regular and most valued member of this Society for more than fifty years. He was graduated at this University in 1817, was for one year a Tutor in the Institution, and soon after became one of its most active and efficient Trustees. Devoting his earlier manhood to the profession of the law, he became the ablest advocate in the circuit in which he practiced. As a popular orator, with power to sway the opinions and actions of men, he had few equals in the American Record. Twice elected to the office of Governor and called to many other public and valuable employments, he fulfilled them all with general acceptance and conspicuous usefulness to the country and his native State. With a vigorous mind, an energetic and enterprising nature, and a natural control over men, the genius to project and power to execute the noblest undertakings, he was equally distinguished and successful in the pursuits of a varied and private business, as in his patriotic and public career. Uniting with these characteristics of mind, the highest manly virtues, a cheerful and buoyant spirit, a conformable and social temper, and attractive manners, he was in private and public life one of the most eminent characters to whom the State has ever given birth.

*It is therefore resolved,* That the members of this Society, deeply regretting the death of their fellow-member,

JOHN M. MOREHEAD, as a token of respect, the Hall of the Society be draped in mourning for the term of thirty days.

*Be it also further resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and a copy filed in the Archives of the Society.

A. W. RIEGER,  
J. R. STRAYHORN, } *Committee.*  
A. PHILLIPS,

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At the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the North Carolina Rail Road Company, held at Greensboro', July 12th, 1867:

Mr. Paul C. Cameron introduced the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Since the last Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the North Carolina Rail Road Company, the death of the late Governor MOREHEAD has occurred. In token of our sorrow for his death, and sympathy for his family, be it

*Resolved* By the Stockholders of the North Carolina Rail Road Company, in general meeting assembled, that as individuals, as share-holders of this Company, and as citizens of the State at large, we heard at our homes, in the month of August last, of the death of this eminently useful, wise, and patriotic public man, with deep and sincere sorrow; that in a review of his active and well spent life, considered either with reference to his individual enterprise, or his enlightened and far-seeing public spirit, the death of such a man could not be regarded otherwise than a great loss; but falling on us in the midst of the upheavings of defeat and the disasters of a great civil strife, to us of North Carolina and of this Company, his death is felt as a great State calamity.

*Resolved*, That whilst friendship and eulogy have performed their offices in setting out truthful and just portraits of the private worth and public services of this great man and true hearted North Carolinian, by none can his merits be longer and better remembered than by us who had been accustomed to lean on his direction, and

be directed by his wisdom, in the services of this Company, in his earnest industry in securing its charter, in his manly and untiring efforts to induce the doubting citizens along its line to shoulder the enterprise, in his sleepless energy and zeal through all its dark days and early beginnings, as its first President and chief builder, from which no factious opposition or false clamor could for an instant divert him from his great purpose to imbed in the soil of his native State, in his own day and under his own direction, "a great Central Trunk Rail Way," as the best deliverance of her citizens from commercial and agricultural bondage.

*Resolved*, That from his early beginnings at the University of the State, in which he sustained all the duties and obligations of pupil, tutor, and trustee, with the highest proofs of his utilitarian capacity, as well as by his exhibitions at the bar, and in the halls of legislation—before great masses of the people and as their chief executive officer—as by his support of all the leading enterprises of the day, which he sustained, not more by his persuasive eloquence than by his solid and liberal contributions, did he stamp himself upon the times and the memory of his fellow-citizens as a useful and practical man, equal to any position, and must be declared a public benefactor.

*Resolved*, That we tender to his bereaved wife and children, the condolence of our sincere sympathy in the painful bereavement that they have been called to suffer in the loss of their wise and affectionate friend and provident guardian.

*Resolved*, That the President of this Company be instructed to issue to Mrs. Góvernor Morehead, a complimentary letter of Free Pass, inviting her and the members of her immediate family to continue the use of this Road during the remainder of her life.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be entered on the minutes of this meeting, and that they be published with the annual report of the Company.



PIEDMONT RAIL ROAD COMPANY,  
*Richmond, Va., September 13th, 1866.*

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held this day, present, A. S. Buford, Esq., President; John R. Edwards, A. F. Harvey, A. Y. Stokes, Wm. T. Sutherlin, Directors:

The President announced the death of Gov. MOREHEAD in appropriate remarks, and offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That this Board have received with sensations of profound sorrow the announcement of the recent death of Hon. JOHN M. MOREHEAD, a member of this Board.

That the Board cannot forbear to express the deep sense of loss sustained by its members in this melancholy event, and desire hereby to record their high appreciation of the valuable and faithful service and sympathy so long extended by the deceased to the interests of this Company, as well as of the other great public improvements to which he devoted so large a portion of his valuable life.

That the Board hereby desire to testify their sincere sympathy with those of his family and fellow-citizens, who are more immediately afflicted by his untimely death.

The following resolution was offered by Maj. Wm. T. Sutherlin, prefacing it with a few remarks on the distinguished services and eminent talents of the deceased, after which the resolution was unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That as a testimonial of our high appreciation of the exalted talents and eminent services of the Hon. JOHN M. MOREHEAD, deceased, of North Carolina, in the construction of many of the most important railroads in his own State, but especially for the liberal views and unceasing efforts for the past fifteen years, to obtain the charter from the Legislature of his native State for the construction of this Road, the depot nearest Greensboro', N. C., and known as "Sepinaw" shall hereafter be known and designated by the Company as "Morehead Depot."

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing be furnished to the family of the deceased, and also to the newspapers of his State for publication.

A copy from the minutes.

E. A. BARBER, *Secretary.*

From the Raleigh (N. C.) Sentinel.

### THE LATE HON. JOHN M. MOREHEAD.

The telegraph announced, on yesterday, the death, on the day previous, at the Rockbridge Alum Springs, Virginia, of the Hon. JOHN MOTLEY MOREHEAD, of Guilford. Previous information had admonished us of his precarious health, but we had not anticipated a fatal termination of his malady. The intelligence of his demise will cause general regret throughout this State, of which he has been so distinguished and useful a citizen.

Gov. MOREHEAD was born in Rockingham county, July 1798, and was consequently, at the time of his death, in the 69th year of his age. He was educated by Rev. David Caldwell, and graduated, in 1817, at the University. In 1821 he represented the County of Rockingham in the House of Commons; after which he removed to Guilford and represented that county in the Legislature of 1826 and 1827. During all this interval, and up to the year 1840, he pursued the profession of the law,—practicing at the bar of his circuit with great success.

In 1840 he was the candidate of the Whig party for Governor, and was elected over the Hon. R. M. Saunders, and re-elected in 1842 over the Hon. Louis D. Henry. Both of those campaigns, from the ability and vigor with which they were conducted, are the most memorable in the political history of the State. In the prosecution of them Gov. MOREHEAD acquired a reputation, as an effective and popular stump-orator, second to that of very few men in the country. His administration as Governor of the State was characterized by unwearied industry, signal ability, and great acceptability to the people. To his efforts and management, the former Common School system of the State was largely indebted for its inauguration and perfection.

In 1848, Gov. MOREHEAD was President of the great Convention in Philadelphia, which nominated General Taylor for the Presidency.

He was a member of the first Confederate Congress, and, throughout the progress of the late war, though strongly opposed to its inception, adhered to the fortunes of his State and section with a manly and unflinching fidelity.

Few men, if any, have lived in North Carolina, who devoted themselves with greater assiduity, zeal and success, to the development of the material resources of the State. Perhaps the most active and influential of our citizens and capitalists in securing the charter of the North Carolina Railroad and the subscription to its stock, he was long its President, carrying to the discharge of the duties of that office a rare executive talent and a practical judgment that was seldom at fault in matters of business. He has been more or less identified, for the last twenty years and upwards, with all our works of Internal Improvement, and with many of our mechanical and industrial enterprises, and contributed more to their general stimulation and success, it may with safety be asserted, than, perhaps, any other man in the State. In these respects he did North Carolina distinguished service.

Gov. MOREHEAD was for many years a Trustee of the University, and it was at the late Commencement of that Institution, deeply interested, as he always was, in the cause of education and in the success of the College, that we last met him,—in somewhat indifferent health, it is true, but with every reason to hope that his remarkably robust constitution would soon overcome the approaches of disease.

In disposition and character Governor MOREHEAD was genial, social and urbane.

His death deprives the State of a representative man,—of one who had filled a very large measure of usefulness,



and who was devoted to the interests of the Commonwealth. His fellow-citizens at large have reason to cherish his memory as a man of mark and a faithful public servant, while the immediate community in which he resided is called upon to deplore the loss of one of its most eminent lights. It will not be slow in paying suitable tributes to his memory, and in recording its appreciation of his uncommon qualities.





